southern VOICE

Midtown murder
Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington announces arrest in October gay slaying.
Page 4

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Glance prompts anti-gay beating

Morehouse bat attack raises concerns of homophobia

Story, Page 3
Editorial, Page 26

Gay couples say they dare not walk openly at Morehouse College, where a glance in a shower prompted a baseball bat attack earlier this month. Gay students and their supporters gathered this week to sign a card for Gregory Love, who remains in the Morehouse Infirmary. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood. Photo illustration by John Nail)

STILL TAINTED: Soft Cell's **Marc Almond** too fluid to pigeonhole. **Page 33**

TRANS REMEMBRANCE: Dozens of deaths to be marked during annual service. **Page 22**

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local news

Hate crime at Morehouse College?

Gay students say homophobia to blame for attack in dorm shower

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

An attack that began with a glance in a dorm shower at Morehouse College sent one student to the hospital, another to jail, and prompted charges of widespread homophobia at the historically black all-male private school in southwest Atlanta.

Gregory Love, a junior at Morehouse, was beaten "approximately six to seven times, about the face, head, shoulders, back and arms" with a baseball bat on Nov. 3 in the bathroom of the Brazeal Hall dormitory, according to an incident report filed by the Morehouse College Police Department.

Love, a music major and member of the Morehouse Glee Club, told police that he did not have his glasses on when he went to take a shower, and he looked at another person in the shower thinking he was his roommate.

southern VOICE COVER STORY

"What you lookin' at?" the person said, according to the police report.

"I thought you were my roommate," Love said, recalling the conversation for the police. "I was about to say 'what's up.'"

Love then went to another shower stall and prepared to shower. The alleged assailant left and "returned with a baseball bat and began to beat [Love] with it," according to the report.

Love made his way to the campus infirmary, where a nurse called an ambulance. He was taken to Atlanta Medical Center where he was diagnosed with a fractured skull that required surgery to relieve internal pressure and approximately 20 stitches, according to students who have visited him.

Gay students from the Atlanta University Center gathered Monday night to sign a get well card for Morehouse junior Gregory Love, who was beaten with a baseball bat after looking at a male student in the shower. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Love was released from the hospital Nov. 6, but remains at the Morehouse Infirmary, according to school officials.

"He is resting and recovering, and we think he'll be fine," said Eddie Gaffney, Morehouse dean of student services.

Morehouse sophomore Aaron Price, the son of a Chicago minister, was arrested Nov. 4 on charges of aggravated assault and was released from the Fulton County Jail the same day after posting bond. He is scheduled to appear in Fulton County Magistrate Court Nov. 20, according to Morehouse Police Chief Vernon Worthy.

Price was expelled from the college Nov. 5, according to school officials.

Neither the victim nor the alleged assailant is talking, but the attack prompted gay students and Atlanta gay activists to charge Morehouse officials with downplaying a potential hate crime — an allegation school officials vehemently deny.

The school has "a long history of hushing up violent and anti-gay incidents," according to Craig Washington, executive director of Atlanta's gay community center.

State Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta), a longtime gay rights ally, sponsored Georgia's hate crimes law. His district includes the Atlanta University Center, made up of four historically black colleges: Morehouse, Spelman College, Morris Brown College and Clark Atlanta University.

The attack on Love is "a horrible, horrible act," Fort said this week. "And I'm very glad to learn they've already arrested someone."

But Fort, a history professor at Morris Brown, also disputed claims that homophobic violence is common at Atlanta University Center schools.

"It's ... an incredibly rare act for the AUC," said Fort, who has been a student and teacher at the AUC since 1978. "And these acts happen everywhere, not just here."

Victim says not gay; school tries to squash forum

While rumors circulated around the Morehouse campus that a gay student had been beaten and gay activists sent out emails imploring gays to come "show support," Love said he is not gay.

"We went and visited him and wanted him to know he had the support of GLBT students on campus," said Erin Edwards, a Spelman student and lesbian. "We told him about our demonstration, and he said we should go do what we needed to do for us, but not do it for him, because he wasn't gay."

Please see MOREHOUSE on Page 8

Gay students ask schools for help

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Members of ASSEFA, a newly formed group of approximately 20 gay Atlanta University Center students and gay activists, held a press conference Wednesday to call on the school to address "rampant homophobia" on campus.

"Our community wants us to take pride in our schools, to be proud of the fact that we are educated and black," said Tiffany Cherry, a lesbian student at Spelman College. "But how can we take pride in an institution that doesn't take pride in us?"

Cherry and two other gay AUC students recounted episodes on campus in which they felt they were verbally or physically harassed for being gay.

"When I lived on campus, I had problems walking to and from class every single day — sometimes verbally and sometimes unfortunately there were physical confrontations," said Justin Holland, a former Morehouse student who is gay.

Holland said he filed "countless" complaints, but nothing was ever done.

But Morehouse police officials said they were unaware of any abuse directed at Holland.

"That kind of abuse is unheard of," said Morehouse Police Chief Vernon Worthy. "If that had happened and he had reported it, I would know about it."

Worthy encouraged Holland to refile his complaints and "come talk to me about it. The statute of limitations probably isn't up," he said. "We'll get to the bottom of it."

Morehouse administrative officials refused to discuss the allegations.

"We don't have any comment because we didn't know anything about [the press conference]," said Elise Durham, Morehouse media relations manager.

Other students at the press conference also recounted violence based on sexual orientation.

"I was punched in the face because I am gay," said Gerald Wilson, a student at Morehouse from 2000 until this year. "This is modern day vigilante justice."

Activists called on Morehouse to publicly respond to the beating of student Gregory Love for allegedly looking at another man in a dorm shower last week.

"In the South, black men used to be lynched for 'reckless eye-balling,'" said Kevin Bynes, a gay youth coordinator, referring to attacks on black men for allegedly looking at white women.

"This student was beaten for 'reckless eye-balling,'" he said. "It's the same thing."

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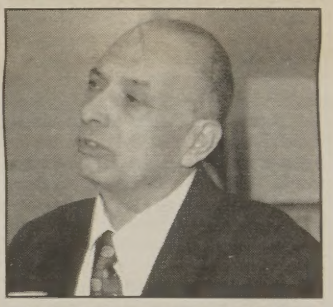
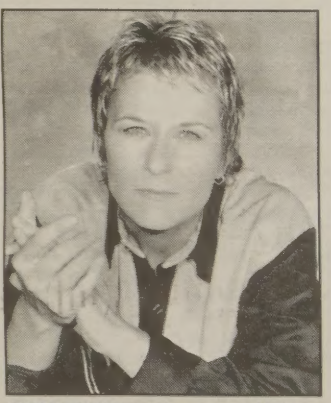
GAY LIAISON: Gay activists met last week to develop a committee that will discuss gay issues with Sgt. **Connie Locke**, recently named the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison. **Page 7**



DOGMA DILEMMA: Atlanta Rev. **Abu-Akel Fahed**, moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), said a petition by conservative church members to discipline gay-friendly churches is 'a waste of time.' **Page 15**



DOUBLE FEATURE: A double whammy of lesbian singers hits the Atlanta music scene this week. **Mary Gauthier** offers a gritty rock contrast to the velvet voice of jazz singer Janet Metzger. **Page 43**

local news

Police link arrested man to gay slaying

Suspect faces multiple murder charges; police release few details about case in Midtown

By MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Police charged a 25-year-old man with the October strangulation death of a gay Midtown resident on Wednesday, one of at least three unsolved killings across metro Atlanta that he has allegedly been tied to, authorities said.

The Atlanta Police Department is also pursuing possible ties between Howard M. Belcher, who was arrested Oct. 30, and the strangulation and beating death of a second gay man in May.

But Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington, who announced Belcher's arrest during a press conference Wednesday, stopped short of labeling the slayings as gay-related.

"All we are investigating are the specific crimes," Pennington said. "We are not looking into the lifestyle of the victims."

Pennington, who was joined during the brief press conference by law enforcement officials from three other agencies, said "robbery is the common motive" in the cases. But he declined to discuss further similarities in the slayings or comment on whether other victims were gay.

"Lifestyle isn't an issue," Sgt. John Quigley, a police department spokesperson, said after the press briefing. "It isn't a crime. We aren't going to get into it."

Atlanta homicide investigators reportedly linked Belcher to the early October slaying of Mark Schaller, a 40-year-old gay man who lived on Dutch Valley Road in Midtown. Schaller was found bound and gagged and died of blunt force injury to the neck, according to police and the Fulton County Medical Examiner's office.

Schaller's body was discovered in his condominium on Oct. 10. There were no signs of forced entry, according to a police report.

Schaller was found a few days after his death and his cell phone and wallet were missing, according to a friend who asked to remain anonymous.

"My friends and I that have talked about this have been surprised that there is some sort of resolution already, because it seems like one of those cases in which no one would ever be caught," the friend said. "There has been a quietness about the whole murder."

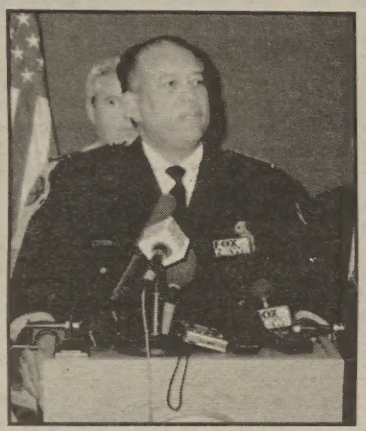
Authorities also charged Belcher in the slaying of Matthew B. Abney, 45, in his Dallas, Ga., home in early October, and the robbery and kidnapping of two Atlanta men in February.

Belcher may also soon be charged in the death of Artilles McKinney, a 35-year-old Duluth man. Police are awaiting the results of a coroner's report.

Police in College Park arrested Belcher Oct. 30 and charged him with theft by receiving stolen property. He was allegedly found driving the 1994 Lexus sedan last used by McKinney.

Similarities in the crimes and "good police work" led Atlanta police investigators to charge Belcher in Schaller's death, Pennington said.

"It is a heinous crime, a brutal crime," Pennington said.



Atlanta Police Chief **Richard Pennington** was flanked by law enforcement officials from several agencies Wednesday when he announced the arrest of a suspect in the October slaying of a gay Midtown man. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

On Tuesday, Pennington and Atlanta police investigators met with officials from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Paulding County Sheriff's Department and the Fulton County District Attorney's office to compare notes on the unsolved cases.

A day later, Pennington used the press conference to discuss Schaller's slaying, a case about which police officials repeatedly refused to comment previously.

A friend of Schaller's told Southern Voice the victim was gay. But Atlanta police officials declined numerous requests over several weeks for details about the slaying.

Belcher allegedly met the men in "a social environment, possibly a bar," Quigley said, but he declined to elaborate. Pennington said Belcher's connections to his alleged victims were "undetermined at this time."

"We cannot say he knew his victims," Pennington added.

Police officials would not release a photo of Belcher or identify places he frequented due to the continuing investigation, they said.

Quigley would not say if there were signs of sexual assault in the cases.

Belcher is being held in the Fulton County jail. Which jurisdiction will move forward first with its prosecution was unclear at press time Wednesday.

Ties to second gay killing?

Belcher's arrest led Atlanta police investigators to review unsolved homicides, including the May 18 strangulation death of Howard Ludin, a 37-year-old gay landscaper who lived on Piedmont Avenue.

Ludin was found lying face up in his bed and had been strangled and suffered injuries to his neck and the back of his head, police reported.

Ludin's wallet was missing, and his 1986 red Ford F-150 pickup truck was missing. The truck was later recovered in a parking lot near Ansley Mall, police said.

As recently as September, an Atlanta homicide detective classified Ludin's slaying as "a lover's quarrel or something."

Police also faced criticism from Ludin's friends and families about the pace of the investigation. Grimes said that he needed more people who knew Ludin to step forward with information.

On Wednesday, police said they have not conclusively tied Belcher to Ludin's death.

"We are looking at that one but haven't made any official announcement," Quigley said.

Michael Edwards, a Chattanooga, Tenn., resident and longtime friend of Ludin's, said he remains concerned that nearly six months after his friend's slaying, the case hasn't been closed.

"People are always unhappy when things don't happen fast," Edwards said late Wednesday. "We are more unhappy with police because they don't keep us informed."

Edwards said Belcher's arrest leaves him cautiously optimistic.

Originally from Wisconsin, Ludin moved to Atlanta after living in Chattanooga, Edwards said. He worked as a self-employed landscaper and often hired temporary laborers for assistance on projects, Edwards added.

"Howard was trusting and he bonded with people very fast," he said.

Police investigation

The reluctance of Pennington to discuss in detail possible gay ties in the homicide investigations rests, in part, over concerns about outing victims to friends and family, and feeding hysteria among gay residents, police officials said.

But Pennington's use of "lifestyle" during his press conference Wednesday — a phrase that makes many gays bristle for its historic use by anti-gay conservatives — is a clunky departure from the easy rapport he has shown with gay men and lesbians since he arrived to lead the Atlanta Police Department last summer.

On the job since July 9, Pennington met with leaders of several area gay and transgender groups on Sept. 25, answering questions, listening to concerns and asking for more information after admitting he needed more information on some issues.

During that session, Pennington said he would appoint a gay liaison officer, as he had at the police department in New Orleans. As a high-ranking officer with the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, Pennington served in a similar position.

On Oct. 14, Pennington appointed Sgt. Connie Locke, a lesbian, as the department's first liaison to gay residents.

But by declining to release of details of the crimes that include gay victims, Pennington and the police department miss an opportunity to alert gay residents, said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide gay rights group.

It also indicates, at least publicly, Thornell said, that investigators might not be pursuing possible motives in the crimes.

"If a gay man is murdered, gay men wonder why, what were the circumstances, just so they can be aware about what happened," Thornell said. "They want to know if there are particular precautions that they need to take."

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local news

Perdue transition team 'unknown' on gay issues

Michael Bowers won't have official post in new governor's administration, staff says

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The crushing losses handed to Georgia's Democratic Party in the Nov. 5 election have left activists scrambling to learn about the new state's new power players and their potential effect on gay issues.

Governor-elect Sonny Perdue announced his picks for a transition team and inaugural committee leaders this week, and most are "totally unknown to gays, which is scary," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide gay political group that endorsed Perdue's opponent, Gov. Roy Barnes, in the election.

The concern is unjustified, according to Dan McLagan, Perdue's transition team spokesperson.

"Gays don't have anything to worry about," McLagan said. "Republicans aren't taking out the torches and coming for them."

No 'official position' for Bowers

Former BellSouth Senior Vice President Carl Swearingen will lead the transition team, McLagan said. Economist Hank Huckaby, on loan from the University of Georgia where he is senior vice president of finance, will serve as budget director.

Nancy Coverdell, widow of late U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.), will co-chair Perdue's inaugural efforts with Alec Poitevint, former treasurer for the National Republican Committee, McLagan said.

None of the appointments have anti-gay histories, according to McLagan.

"I don't think Sonny would stand for that," he said.

McLagan acknowledged Michael Bowers, the former Georgia attorney general with a long history of opposing gay civil rights, filled an "advisory and friend role to the campaign," but said he had "no official position on the transition team."

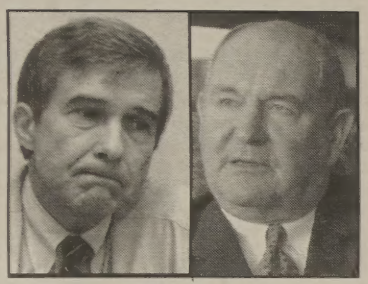
Bruce Bowers, Michael Bowers' son, is considered by some observers as a strong candidate to be Perdue's chief of staff, something McLagan denied.

"No one has any titles yet, nothing has been decided," he said.

Bruce Bowers' position on gay issues is unknown, and he did not respond to interview requests. But Michael Bowers' history on gay issues is clear.

Sixteen years ago, in the case of Bowers v. Hardwick, Bowers fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court's to defend Georgia's sodomy law in the case of Michael Hardwick, a gay Atlanta man arrested in his own bedroom.

The court's narrow 5-4 decision upholding the law sparked outrage from gay activists, and even though Georgia's sodomy law was overturned by the state Supreme Court in 1998, legal advocates say the stridently worded ruling in Bowers v. Hardwick continues to have impact.



The 'advising' role of former Georgia attorney general **Michael Bowers** to Gov.-elect **Sonny Perdue** should concern gays, activists said. As attorney general, Bowers defended the state's sodomy law and rescinded a job offer to a lesbian lawyer. (Photos by AP)

As attorney general, Bowers also fought a successful legal battle to deny Robin Shahar, a lesbian attorney, a job in his office.

Little info on transition team

Swearingen, Perdue's transition team leader, served at BellSouth from 1978 until he retired as senior vice president in August 2001. He is "an unknown" on gay issues, activists said.

While BellSouth announced it would offer domestic partner benefits for its employees in July 2001, "that went through the diversity council, and he actually didn't get to vote on that," said Nicole Merritt, a BellSouth spokesperson. She declined further comment on Swearingen's gay record, as did BellSouth's gay employee group.

Swearingen did not respond to interview requests by press time.

"He travels in very elite circles, but his position on gay issues has never really been tested," said gay lobbyist Larry Pellegrini, executive director of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit.

Huckaby, a budget director for former Georgia Gov. Zell Miller, "is also an unknown," Pellegrini said.

"He really didn't work with social issues then, so it's hard to get a read on him," Pellegrini said. "All we know is Zell was okay with increasing money for [the AIDS medication] AZT back then, and I'm assuming Huckaby probably had some role in that."

Coverdell "will serve a largely ceremonial position as head of the Inaugural Committee, along with Poitevint," Pellegrini said. "They will have little impact on bread and butter issues after the big party."

Gay Republicans applauded Coverdell's appointment, but reserved comment on the other appointments, saying they are "unfamiliar" with them.

"Nancy Coverdell's husband was inclusive and was a friend of Log Cabin Republicans, and Nancy has continued that inclusion," said Marc Yeager, executive director of Georgia Log Cabin Republicans.

The group will continue to work with Perdue, he said.

"That door was opened when he addressed LCR in October," Yeager said. "He asked for us to be involved in the issues, and we will."

Republican Party leaders were less optimistic about Log Cabin's place at Perdue's table.

"The Log Cabin Republicans are the predominant Republican gay group in Georgia, but for me to state or indicate what role they may play at this transition would be pure speculation," said Jack Winter, chair of the Fulton County Republican Party, who has attended several Log Cabin meetings.

"What I tell any group is if they're interested in getting their message out, they have to get in front of the legislature," Winter said.

Poitevint "regularly contributed to the Republican Party line in many campaigns," Pellegrini said. "And we all know they're not bastions of progressive thought."

Huckaby, Coverdell and Poitevint did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Dems pick Coleman as House speaker

Activists say GOP-led Senate 'very scary' for gays

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

State Rep. Terry Coleman (D-Eastman) beat Rep. Larry Walker (D-Perry), the state House majority leader, in a bid this week to succeed former House Speaker Tom Murphy (D-Bremen), who held the office a historic 28 years before his Nov. 5 election defeat.

The most powerful position in the state House, the speaker makes committee assignments and chooses what legislation will be considered and when it will come up for vote.

Coleman — former chair of the House Appropriations Committee — is "very middle of the road, very moderate" on gay issues, according to gay lobbyist Larry Pellegrini.

Coleman has been good to gays when he had the chance, said Allen Thornell, Georgia Equality executive director.

"He was always there for us on ADAP funding," he said.

Members of the health subcommittee work to find the money for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, but that money has been "protected and ushered through" the appropriations committee by Coleman, activists said.

"He'll make an excellent speaker," said Jeff Graham, executive director of AIDS Survival Project, which has led ADAP lobbying efforts. "He's very aware of our needs and over the years, as we have worked to bring funding for ADAP up to adequate levels, we have enjoyed support from him. I hope that continues."

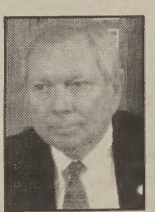
Coleman did co-sponsor legislation last year to produce Georgia license plates commemorating and raising money for the Boy Scouts of America, which bans gay members. He declined comment at the time on the reason for his sponsorship.

Coleman did not respond to interview requests by press time.

With three Democratic state senators switching parties this month — Sen. Don Cheeks (D-Augusta), Sen. Dan Lee (D-LaGrange), and Sen. Rooney Bowen (D-Cordele) — Republicans now control the state Senate.

The impact of the switch on the state House will be "huge," said Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator.

"It's very scary," Drenner said. "We've always been somewhat insulated from the more conservative Senate, but not any longer. I have no doubt we will see anti-gay legislation immediately."



On Tuesday, Georgia Democrats nominated state Rep. **Terry Coleman** (D-Eastman) to become the next speaker of the state House of Representatives. Speaker Tom Murphy lost his seat in the legislature in the Nov. 5 election. (Photo by AP)

Staff of outgoing Gov. Roy Barnes supported that prediction.

"I wish I could be positive and optimistic about where the state is going on [gay inclusive legislation]," said Billy Linville, a spokesperson for Barnes. "But I think we're going to move backwards on gay issues [under Perdue]."

By claiming a majority in the Senate, Republicans can vote to recapture some power from the state's senior Democratic official, Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, Thornell said.

"Which of course is bad for us, given his strong history of support for our community," he said.

Taylor has been credited with blocking several anti-gay bills in the past. He did not respond to interview requests by press time.

local news

Task force to work with gay police liaison

Members sought to represent 'diverse community'

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

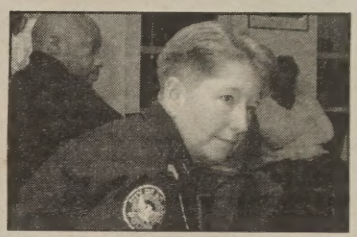
When new Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington announced in September that he would appoint a police officer to act as a liaison to gay constituents, he also asked gay citizens to appoint a community liaison to the police.

But attendees at a public meeting held last week at Atlanta's gay community center decided to create a task force of five to seven residents to work with the police, instead of picking just one individual.

Pennington appointed Sgt. Connie Locke, a lesbian, to his gay liaison post in October. Locke then met with Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, and Craig Washington, executive director of the Center, to begin the process of identifying a volunteer to serve as a gay citizen liaison to the police department.

But at the public meeting, the majority of attendees expressed concern about the limitations that one individual would face when attempting to represent the interests of multiple constituencies.

"We have such a diverse community that for only one individual to speak to [Sgt. Locke] would be a disservice," said Monica Helms, who represented Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group.



Sgt. Connie Locke, the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison officer, sat in on a meeting of last week in which gay citizens decided to create a seven-member task force to meet with Locke monthly. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

After little deliberation, the 13 people in attendance voted 12-1 to establish a diverse council of individuals to work with Locke.

"Pennington would be OK with a panel," Locke said after the group's decision. "He just wants me to be here for you."

Each attendee voted for the top three constituencies that they thought should have a seat on the panel, after participants brainstormed a list of 14 categories.

Seven constituencies received votes and, thus, representation on the task force.

One representative will be sought from each of these groups: transgendered people, youth/schools, gay bars/gay businesses, gay people of color, gay events, gay homeowners/gay neighborhood associations, and gay non-profit groups.

Up to seven people can serve on the task force, but the group will operate on a flexible scale of five to seven full-time members, in case one member quits and a suitable replacement has not been found in time for the next month's meeting, participants agreed.

Two people at the meeting volunteered to serve on the board.

Dee Dee Chamblee, president of LaGender Inc. Support Group, will fill the transgendered seat, and Ryan Peterson volunteered to serve as the homeowner/neighborhood association representative.

The other seats will be filled taking into consideration suggestions from gay businesses, associations and organizations. Chamblee, Peterson, and Locke will spearhead the effort.

Described as "a little fireball" by Thornell, Locke researched other gay liaison programs after being appointed to the position.

She said she studied programs in San Francisco, Phoenix and New Orleans before modeling her rough draft of duties after a program from Washington, D.C.

But 15 officers work in the D.C. program, which is not the situation in Atlanta, Locke said.

"Unless we decide to pull more people to my unit, it's just gonna be me," she said.

Taking from the D.C. program, Locke pinpointed some of the duties that she plans on suggesting to Pennington.

Locke said she would conduct crime prevention seminars where "GLBT businesses and residents are concentrated" and identify areas where problems have occurred by using crime analysis, community awareness seminars, patrol efforts and community responses.

Gay citizens will have the chance to express issues in monthly meetings by funneling concerns through members of the community task force or contacting Locke directly.

Locke also plans to make herself available for dispatch to all criminal incidents involving gay people "in order to gain the GLBT communities' trust," she said.

"Sometimes victims that are gay have a problem talking to law enforcement because they feel like the officers can't understand where they are coming from," she said.

"I think it is important to have someone who is gay there," she said.

MORE INFO
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local news

Morehouse officials deny homophobia on campus

MOREHOUSE, continued from Page 3

Edwards organized a get-well card signing and a gay student march to Morehouse's campus on Nov. 11, prior to an already scheduled forum on homophobia sponsored by a Morehouse fraternity.

Omega Psi Phi sponsored the forum, called "Meeting of the Minds." Organizers said the meeting was planned before the Nov. 3 attack, but school officials tried to cancel the event just hours before the 7 p.m. start time.

The fraternity went ahead with the "peaceful assembly of students who just want to talk," but forbade any discussion of the beating, said an Omega member who served as moderator and asked not to be identified. An estimated 300 students and gay activists attended.

"We'll probably get our charter pulled for this," the Omega member said. "The college doesn't really know how to deal with all this, so their response is always to just shut it all down."

A Southern Voice reporter and photographer were removed from the forum and escorted off campus by Morehouse police.

Officials deny homophobia, hate crime charges

Attempts to stop students from discussing the attack on Love and to stop the press from reporting on it "speak to the deep homophobia on the [Morehouse] campus," said Donna Payne, constituent field organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group monitoring the case.

School officials declined to officially call the attack a hate crime.

"I think that's premature," said Gaffney, the dean of student services. "The investigation is ongoing, and that certainly hasn't been proven."

Gaffney said he had "no knowledge" of Love's sexual orientation.

Love did not return calls placed to the Morehouse Infirmary, and his family in New Jersey did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Morehouse's police chief said the perpetrator's motivation "leaned" towards hate.

"It's certainly looking like [Price thought Love was gay]," Worthy said. "Based on some of the comments he made to us, I can see it going in that direction."

Price's family denied the allegation.

"Who said it was gay-bashing?" said the suspect's father, Rev. Jerome Price, pastor of the St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Chicago. "If anyone on that campus said it was a hate crime, I want their names."

Price declined to answer further questions, saying he would have his son's attorney call the newspaper.

Southern Voice did not receive such a call by press time.

A majority of students interviewed at the four private colleges and universities that make up the Atlanta University Center said the attack on Love was a hate crime.

"It's the atmosphere here, and the administration feeds it," said Ain Bailey, a lesbian and recent Spelman graduate who attended the Nov. 11 forum. "Girls get raped here all the time, and gay students get attacked and they just look the other way and hush it up."

Morehouse's police chief called the allegations "lies."

"They don't know what they're talking about," Worthy said. "I've been here six years, and there's only been one other incident like this."

Morehouse expelled student **Aaron Price** on Nov. 5, two days after he allegedly beat Gregory Love in a dorm shower.

Incident reports were not immediately available, but Worthy said a gay student was covered with a cloth and beaten by several assailants "three or four years ago."

At least some Morehouse students said they believe Love's beating was "predictable," if not justified.

"Students here know how to act around each other," said Tim McDonald, a heterosexual Morehouse student. "You don't look at another man in the shower, period."

Such behavior would be considered "a come on," according to other students.

"It's an assumption that the other guy is gay, too," said a heterosexual Morehouse student who declined to be identified. "And men freak out about that shit. That shit will get you beat."

Morehouse officials countered that the school's non-discrimination policy includes sexual orientation, and regularly scheduled sensitivity training — mandatory for the resident assistants working in the dormitories — are open to students, too.

Morehouse doesn't offer domestic partner benefits to gay staff, but earlier this month, the college chartered its first gay student group in recent history, dubbed Safe Space, Gaffney said.

"I don't think gay students would feel unwelcome here," he said.

Neither members of Safe Space nor a faculty advisor could be reached for comment by press time.

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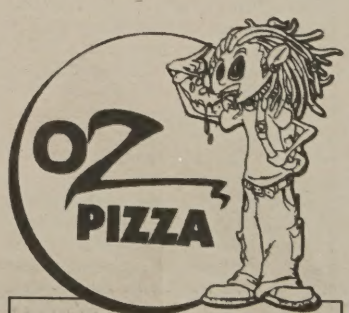

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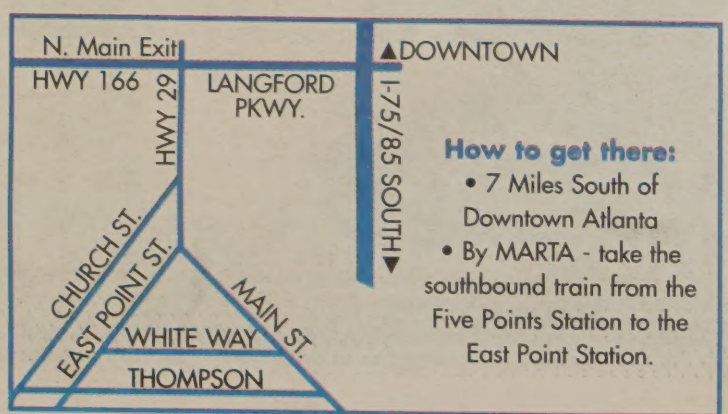

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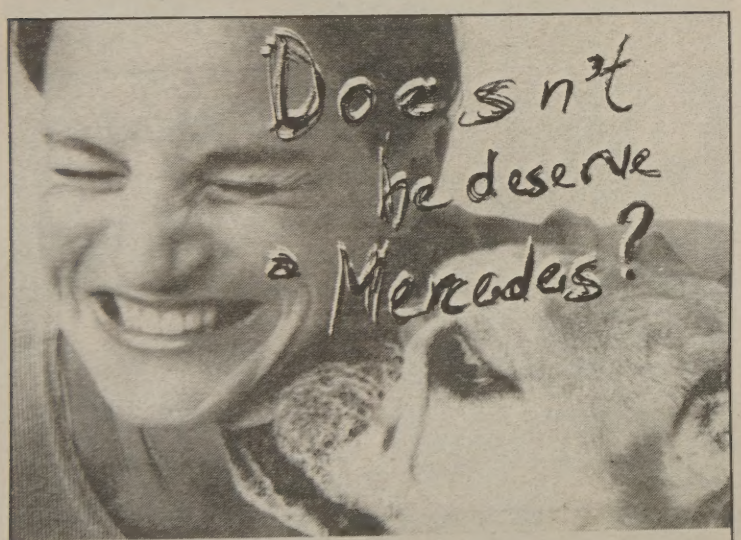

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national news

San Diego elects nation's first openly gay district attorney

SAN DIEGO — Voters in San Diego elected the first openly gay district attorney in the country, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. With about 200 absentee ballots still being counted at press time, Judge Bonnie Dumanis, a lesbian, led eight-year incumbent Paul Pfingst by 3,556 votes, according to the Associated Press. Dumanis was open about her sexual orientation during the campaign, seeking gay political endorsements, while Pfingst's campaign stressed his wife and differences in the candidates' "lifestyles" as Election Day neared, the San Diego Tribune reported. "I think this was more about my opponent than it was about me," Dumanis said Nov. 12. "The message was: It was time for a change." Pfingst's office was dogged by ethics scandals, and several of his employees openly supported Dumanis. But gay voters may have given her the margin of victory, according to the Tribune. In San Diego's heavily gay Hillcrest and North Park neighborhoods, voters picked Dumanis by a 2-to-1 margin. Also Nov. 5, Calif. voters elected two Democrats — Mark Leno and John Laird — as the first openly gay men elected to the state legislature, according to the Associated Press.

Judge **Bonnie Dumanis**, a lesbian, appears to have won the San Diego district attorney's race, becoming the first openly gay prosecutor in the U.S. (Photo by Lenny Ignelzi/AP)

Ark. judge decides against summary judgment in adoption case

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A Pulaski County judge on Nov. 8 delayed decision in a case involving the constitutionality of the state's ban on gay foster parents, according to the Associated Press. Circuit Judge David Bogard denied motions for summary judgment filed by both the Arkansas Child Welfare Agency Review Board and four Arkansans who sued the governor-appointed board after it barred gays from becoming foster parents in 1999. Had he granted either motion, Bogard would have decided the case without hearing testimony. He said he couldn't do that because the rights and lives of children are at stake. "I want to make sure ... we're doing what's right," he said. The case is scheduled for a nine-day trial in January 2004. The citizens who filed the lawsuit say the review board's decision violates their rights to privacy and equal protection guaranteed by the Arkansas and U.S. constitutions.

Ohio judges challenge trans marriage licenses

AKRON, Ohio — Two probate judges in Ohio recently challenged attempts by transgender people to legally marry, the Gay People's Chronicle reported. On Nov. 5, Trumbull County Probate Judge Thomas A. Swift refused to grant a marriage license to Jacob Nash and Erin Barr after Nash, a post-operative female-to-male transsexual, and his attorney refused to answer questions about his genitalia and surgery. Meanwhile, on Oct. 25, Sean M. Brookings, another female-to-male transsexual, filed a federal lawsuit against Stark County Probate Judge R.R. Denny Clunk, after Clunk had him arrested for listing his gender as male on a marriage license, the Chronicle reported. Clunk had approved three marriage licenses for Brookings to marry women, and learned of his transgender status after the death of Brookings' last wife, Lois McKinney. An attorney for McKinney's family contacted Clunk because the family did not want Brookings to inherit McKinney's property. Clunk then had Brookings arrested and jailed, but another judge dismissed the case.

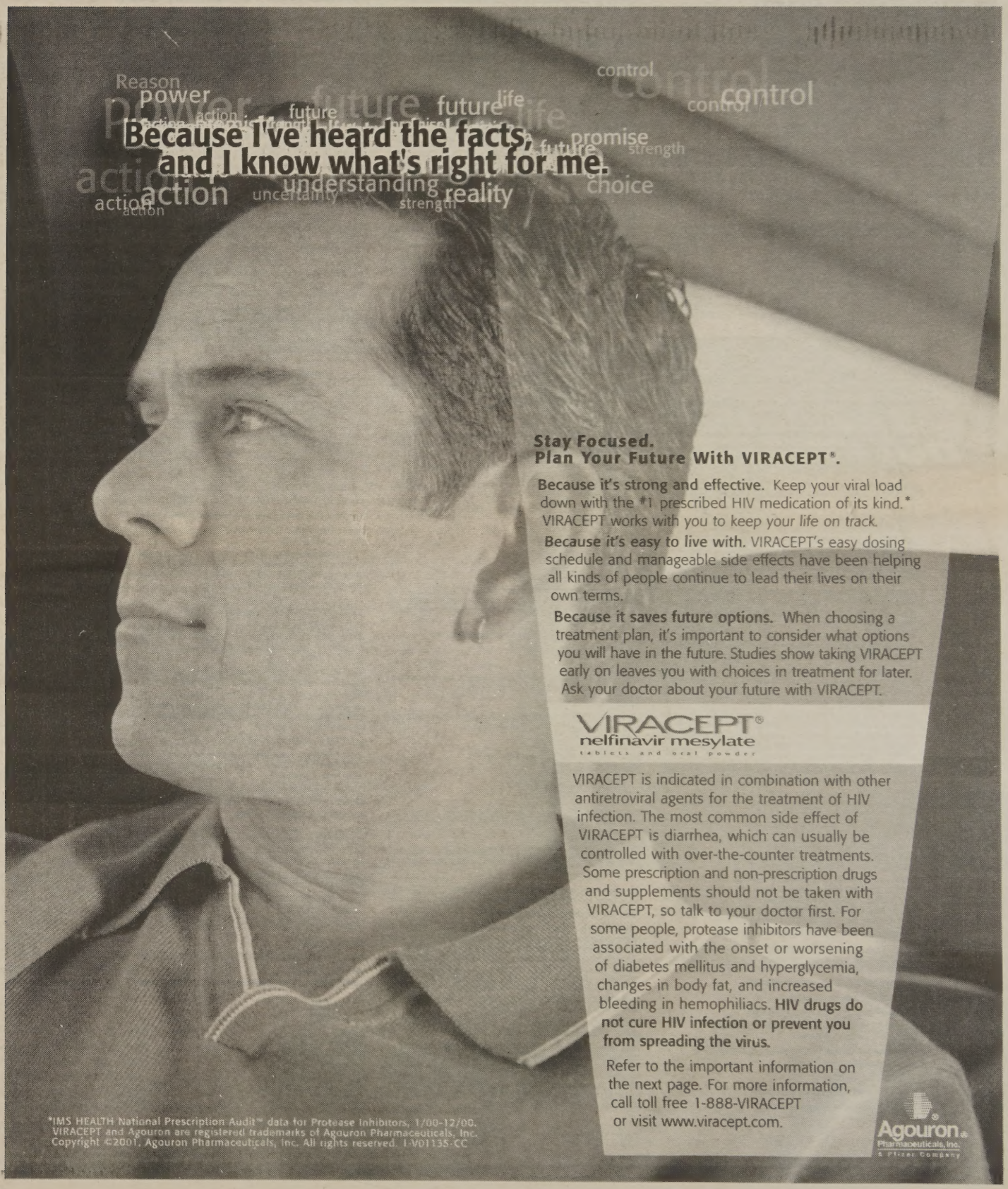
Plaintiff in Conn. civil union case dies

GREENWICH, Conn.— A man who filed suit asking the state of Connecticut to dissolve his same-sex civil union has died, but his attorneys want the potentially landmark case to live on, the Associated Press reported. The Connecticut Supreme Court had agreed in September to take up the case of Glen Rosengarten, who died of lymphoma last week at the age of 54. Rosengarten wanted to dissolve the union in which he and Peter Downes were joined in Vermont, the state where the couple registered their union in 2000, remains the only one to recognize such unions, but it cannot dissolve the union of Rosengarten or Downes because neither of them were Vermont residents. Rosengarten is believed to be the first person to attempt to legally dissolve a civil union outside of Vermont. "We're asking the Supreme Court to keep this case because we think it's a matter of important public interest," said Gary Cohen, Rosengarten's lawyer.

Campus Christian group in Iowa ousts gay leader

PELLA, Iowa — The student body president at Central College has been removed as the leader of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship group because he recently announced he is gay, according to the Associated Press. "He was basically asked to step down because he didn't agree with our statement of beliefs," said Betsy Loomans, a campus staff worker with InterVarsity. Brad Clark disclosed this fall that he is gay. He remains student body president, but he was asked to step down from his role organizing worship services for InterVarsity, a nondenominational student Christian group with chapters on more than 560 colleges and university campuses nationwide. The decision provoked a review of the student organization's constitution by the student government. After a lengthy debate, Central's student senate voted 22-12 to continue to recognize InterVarsity.

From staff and wire reports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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

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Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

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Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

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The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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international news

Paris mayor makes first official appearance since stabbing

PARIS — Looking rested but moving stiffly, gay Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe attended Armistice Day celebrations on Monday, his first official appearance since being stabbed in the abdomen more than a month ago, the Associated Press reported. Delanoe thanked his doctors and friends for their care and said he was "feeling much better." The mayor, who spent some of his convalescence in the Basque region of southwest France, was on the Champs-Elysees in Paris for ceremonies commemorating the 84th anniversary of the armistice signing that ended World War I. Delanoe was stabbed Oct. 6 during an all-night party at City Hall. The 52-year-old mayor suffered life-threatening injuries and was hospitalized for nearly two weeks. The suspect in the stabbing, Azedine Berkane, 39, told investigators he committed the crime out of dislike for gays and politicians.

Paris Mayor **Bertrand Delanoe**, who is gay, made his first public appearance on Monday since being gravely wounded in an October attack. (Photo by AP)

Australian state broadens reach of some laws to gays

QUEENSLAND, Australia — Schools in this Australian state will no longer have the right to refuse employment to gay and lesbian teachers on the basis of sexual orientation under a shake-up of anti-discrimination laws, the Brisbane Courier-Mail reported. The laws, introduced to state Parliament on Nov. 6, will allow people who have had sex change operations to switch the gender shown on their birth certificate. In addition, gays living in a de facto relationship will be afforded the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. The laws were introduced by Attorney-General Rod Welford without consultation with other political leaders, triggering claims the government was trying to sneak through radical social reform. But Welford said the government was simply bringing Queensland into line with anti-discrimination laws in other states. Arthur Hartwig, president of the Australian Family Association Queensland, said the changes would cheapen the institution of marriage.

Gay adoptions approved in U.K. House over opposition

LONDON — Michael Portillo on Nov. 4 broke cover to lead an attack on Iain Duncan Smith over his opposition to gay adoptions, the Independent reported. The former Tory leadership contender criticized Duncan Smith for imposing a three-line whip on a vote on allowing gay and unmarried couples to adopt children. The former cabinet minister made a surprise intervention to question the Tory leader's decision to force MPs to vote to restrict adoption to married couples. The Kensington and Chelsea MP stunned Tories by quoting Duncan Smith's conference speech last month when he pledged to modernize the Tory party. Another politician, John Bercow, resigned his position as shadow Work & Pensions Minister to allow him to vote against the Tory line on gay adoption. The House of Commons later voted to allow gay and unmarried couples to adopt children, despite Duncan Smith's opposition.

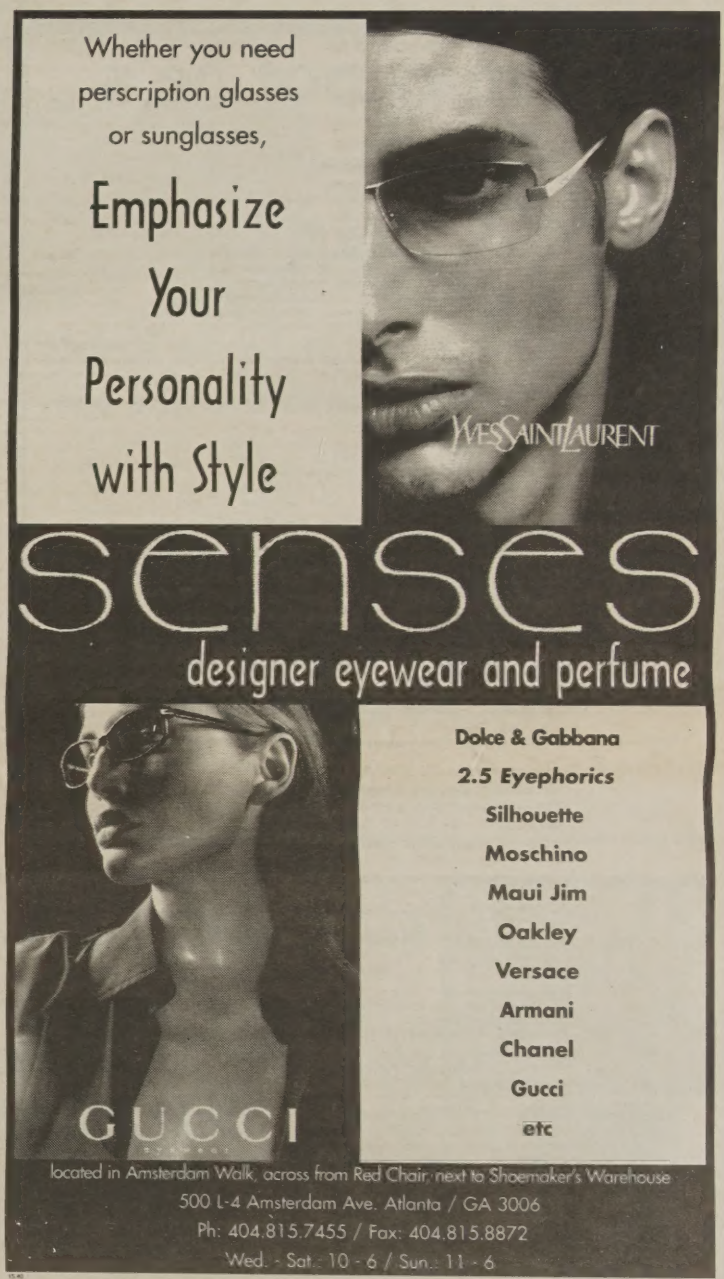
Gay Israeli MP faces new battle in parliament

TEL AVIV — It is a peculiarity of Israeli society that it is far easier to be gay in its army than in the parliament, the Guardian reported. Gay soldiers have Uzi Even to thank for that. The former military intelligence colonel, who spent 20 years working as a scientist on Israel's secret nuclear bomb until he was discovered to be living with a male partner, single-handedly saw to it that equal rights were extended to gays in the army. Last week, Even, 62, was sworn in as the first openly gay member of the Knesset, representing the leftwing party Meretz. "Five years ago they used a biblical admonition that gays should all be put to death," he said. "Now they talk about homosexuality as a psychiatric disorder. They've already made a huge leap of 2000 years into the 19th century, so with a little push ..." Religious conservatives are particularly scornful of Even. "His way of life is repugnant and should be rejected with disgust," said Nissim Zeev, an MP for Shas, the largest ultra-Orthodox party.

Organizers close Gay Games with 'best ever' designation

SYDNEY — More than 30,000 people attended the Gay Games, which closed Nov. 9, as organizers hailed the event as a success despite financial concerns that loomed over the event, according to ABC News. More than 13,000 athletes traveled from around the world to compete in 31 sporting events. Games spokesperson Matt Jones told ABC News that this year's games were the best in the event's history. "The parties were really well attended, the cultural events were also very successful," he said. Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games were hailed as the "best ever" by former International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch. "Every Gay Games is unique, every one is special — Sydney 2002 has set a new height, it has brought the games to the next level, to another wonderful level," said Kathleen Webster, co-president of the International Federation of Gay Games. The next Gay Games will be in Montreal in 2006.

From staff and wire reports



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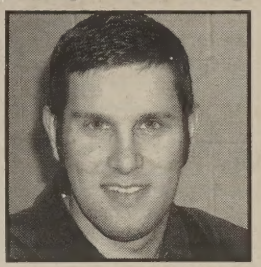
Search continues for Minn. gay journalist reported missing

MINNEAPOLIS — Friends and relatives are continuing their search for a gay journalist who has been missing for more than a week, according to the Associated Press and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Police said they have no indication that foul play is involved in the disappearance of Tim Lee, 34, who has been missing since checking out of a hospital Oct. 28. But Lee's partner, Richard Iglewski, said he's concerned because Lee suffered from severe depression and was diagnosed with Bipolar disorder. Lee is managing editor of Lavender Magazine, a gay publication. He admitted himself to the hospital and checked out with his aunt, who drove him to her home. Before Iglewski could pick him up, Lee went for a walk and didn't return. Experts said Bipolar disorder can cause delusions. "He hasn't done this before," Iglewski said. "We've talked with several people who suffer from a similar condition, and apparently it's not uncommon, which gives us great hope."



Tim Lee, managing editor of the gay Lavender Magazine in Minnesota, has been missing since Oct. 28. Police said they have no indication his disappearance is the result of foul play. (Photo courtesy Richard Iglewski)

British monarchy announces inquiry into alleged gay rape

LONDON — Prince Charles's private secretary announced Nov. 12 that he will conduct an internal investigation about the collapse of former butler Paul Burrell's theft trial and allegations of gay rape by a former member of the prince's staff, according to the Associated Press. Sir Michael Peat said he would investigate whether any members of Charles' household acted improperly after prosecutors dropped their case against Burrell, Princess Diana's former servant, for stealing Royal gifts. The inquiry will also look at allegations that officials covered up accusations of gay rape by one of Charles's aides, Peat said. "I, and more importantly the Prince of Wales, are totally committed to openness and accountability," Peat said. Former royal valet George Smith, 42, said in the London Mail Nov. 10 that he was raped by an unidentified male palace staffer. The prince's office said that there is no evidence based on an internal investigation. The inquiry report is expected by Christmas.

N.H. man on trial for alleged sex assault

KEENE, N.H. — A man accused of sexually assaulting a male Keene State College student in October 2001 went to trial Nov. 6 on two counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault, according to the Associated Press. Prosecutors said that Franklin Harvey, 37, posed as a police officer to get a 19-year-old sophomore into his car, drove to a secluded area and sexually assaulted him. But Harvey's lawyer said the encounter was consensual. The student testified that he was carrying a street sign he found when Harvey told the student that he could be fined for possession of the sign, but that there were alternatives. "That's when he grabbed my crotch," the student testified. The student protested but eventually allowed Harvey to assault him because he feared for his life, the student testified. Public defender Janice Peterson said the alleged victim agreed to the sexual act with Harvey, and gave him his telephone number, but had second thoughts and concocted the story.

Pleas delayed in Calif. trans killing, defense denies anti-trans motive

FREMONT, Calif. — Two of the three men charged in the slaying of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, 17, delayed entering a plea Nov. 8, but one of their attorneys said the transgendered youth was not killed because of her gender identity, according to the Argus newspaper. Jose Antonio Merel and Michael William Magidson, both 22, are scheduled to plea Dec. 13. A third man charged in the slaying, Jaron Chase Nabors, 19, pleaded innocent last month. Magidson, Merel and Nabors are charged with one count each of murder with a special hate-crime enhancement, for their suspected role in the killing. Araujo, who lived as a female and went by the names "Gwen" and "Lida," was beaten and strangled at a party Oct. 3 after attendees discovered she was a biological male. Nabors led investigators to Araujo's body, found Oct. 16 in a remote shallow grave. The case drew national attention as a bias crime, but Magidson's attorney, Michael Thorman, said Araujo "was not singled out because of his sexual orientation or because of his gender." He declined to elaborate.

Police ask for help in slaying of Ala. gay man

ATHENS, Ala. — Sheriff Mike Blakely appealed this week to gays for tips in the slaying of Robert John Thrasher, 32, reported the Huntsville Times. "We know he was an admitted homosexual and his death could be a gay bashing," Blakely said. "There are people out there who may have information." Thrasher was dead for several days when his body was found Nov. 8 in the trunk of his abandoned car, and his billfold and checkbook were missing, Blakely said. Thrasher left home before dawn Nov. 2, and did not return. Friends and relatives looked for him for a week and filed a missing persons report Nov. 7. A friend looking for him discovered the car and notified relatives, who contacted police. No leads have been found in the case, according to police.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Showdown on gays pushed by Presbyterian conservatives

Church leader opposes call for special session on ordination of gay pastors

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

A petition by conservative members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) seeking to address churches that have ordained non-celibate gays — despite rules forbidding it — has nearly enough signatures to force a special session of the Assembly of the 2.6-million member body.

A special assembly has not been called in the church's 20-year history, but conservative organizers have 44 of the 50 co-sponsors they need to prompt the session, which would come sometime next year before the church's General Assembly set for Denver in May.

But Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, an Atlanta pastor elected as moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) last June, said in an interview last week that he does not support the call for a special session.

"I hope the special assembly will not be convened," Abu-Akel said in a rare interview with the gay press. "We cannot accomplish anything productive, and it will be a waste of time and resources."

In a letter sent to General Assembly commissioners, Abu-Akel called the petition a "cloud hanging over" the church. He released the letter at the close of the national conference of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a gay group, last weekend in Minneapolis.

The issue of ordaining gay pastors has caused a rift in the church, including a failed effort last year to purge anti-gay rules in the church's Book of Orders.

"Storm clouds that were developing in the months before we gather have now developed to such a degree that the constitutional integrity of our denomination is threatened," Alexander F. Metherell, who is organizing the petition effort, wrote in an e-mail to General Assembly commissioners, according to Presbyterian News Service.

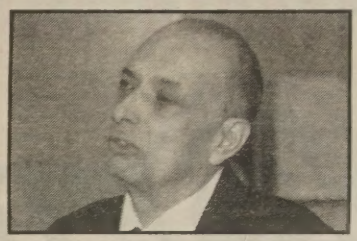
"If the defiance that we are witnessing continues to go unchecked, we will no longer be a constitutional church," he added. "The church is in a constitutional crisis."

Metherell did not respond to repeated requests for comment by this newspaper.

Supporters of ordaining gays said the petition could further a yawning schism in the denomination.

"If this goes through it will do a lot of damage to everyone on all sides of this issue," said Rev. Erin Swenson, a member of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta as well as More Light Presbyterians, a Minnesota-based group seeking the ordination of gays.

A special session of the General Assembly would bring together the 554 commissioners within months of the church's annual gathering at a cost of $500,000 to $1 million, according to Dr. Cam Murchison, dean of the Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta and professor of polity, or church governance.



Rev. **Fahed Abu-Akel**, moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), said he opposes efforts by some conservatives in the denomination to hold a special session to discipline gay-friendly churches.

While he does not support the call for a special session, Abu-Akel declined to state his position on gay ordination. He is "the moderator for the whole church, and [is] seeking unity in our division at this time," he said in an interview.

Abu-Akel's selection in June concerned some gay observers of the church, who were worried that his positions on gay issues were not as strong as the former moderator, Rev. Jack Rogers, who supported gay ordination.

Church conservatives want the denomination to discipline churches that openly defy the church constitution, which bans the ordination of noncelibate gays and forbids same-sex marriages. Gay unions that don't resemble marriages are permitted by the church.

Last month, five Presbyterian ministers from Pennsylvania and Illinois posted a declaration of protest on the door of the denomination's headquarters in downtown Louisville, Ky., imitating the dramatic act that launched the Protestant Reformation in 1517, according to the Associated Press.

"We're definitely backing the effort," said Carmen Fowler, a spokesperson for the Presbyterian Coalition, an Orlando, Fla.-based conservative group that supports Metherell's petition. "There are 12 assemblies openly defying church law on this issue. We believe the church is falling down in its constitutional enforcement."

Fowler said the group is not trying to "strike out a new group of ministers," but simply "maintain the biblical and constitutional definition of who can be ordained."

Church officials have said enforcement of the denomination's laws should be done at local or regional levels, according to the Presbyterian News Service.

MORE INFO

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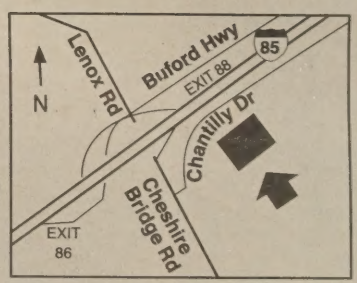

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national news

Chicago, Boston approve trans rights ordinances

Activists cite 'landmark year' for gender identity laws

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

The Chicago City Council last week approved a measure adding "gender identity" to the city's non-discrimination laws. The move, supported by Mayor Richard Daley and heralded by activists, makes Chicago the 12th city to approve legal protections for transgendered people this year.

Illinois Gender Advocates, the state's transgender political group, worked on the ordinance for more than five years, said Beth Plotner, IGA chair.

The "most common myth" the group faced was "that we're already protected, which we weren't," she said.

On Oct. 30, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino signed into law a similar measure passed by the City Council there. The law protects people who live, visit or work in Boston from "gender identity or expression" discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit, lending and insurance.

"I was thrilled when I found out that it was signed — it was the last step necessary to give the ordinance the force of law," said Cole Thaler, a member of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, which began organizing to get the Boston measure passed in the fall of 2001.

The victories in Boston and Chicago are only the latest in what activists say is a "landmark" year for transgender non-discrimination laws.

"In terms of the number of laws passed per year, what was an upward trend over the last few years has become a near vertical climb in 2002," said Lorrie Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

New York City, Philadelphia and Dallas also passed transgender civil rights laws in 2002, as did eight smaller jurisdictions. They include Allentown, New Hope and Erie County in Pennsylvania.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Decatur, Ill.; Salem, Ore. and Tacoma, Wash.

Five of the jurisdictions — Boston, Chicago, New York, Buffalo and Philadelphia — already prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, said Lisa Mottet, legislative lawyer for NGLTF's Transgender Civil Rights Project.

In the other seven, legal protections for gay and transgender people were added at the same time, Mottet said.

"The thing that sticks out in my mind is that many of these laws were pushed by [gay, lesbian and bisexual] activists — usually hand in hand with transgender activists, but sometimes led by the GLB activists," she said.

The Sept. 11 attacks last year taught the country "a terrible lesson about hate," and may have contributed to the dramatic increase in transgender laws this year, Plotner said.

"Most people have gotten past us being freaks on Jerry Springer," she said. "We're being seen more and more as people. With that more people have become more fair-minded."

Some 51 jurisdictions around the country — including the states of Rhode Island and Minnesota, as well as major cities like Atlanta, Seattle, San Francisco, New Orleans and Denver — now specifically ban gender identity discrimination, according to NGLTF.

Still, "little more than 10 percent of the U.S. population is covered by transgender-inclusive non-discrimination laws," said Robyn Walters, media director for the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, which assisted in lobbying for several of the measures passed this year.

Washington, D.C., and Houston, are among the major cities that do not yet have broad transgender rights laws, according to information provided by Illinois Gender Advocates.

Local activists in Boston and Chicago received help from NTAC, NGLTF and the Human Rights Campaign in lobbying for the ordinances.

HRC drew criticism in the past from transgender activists for refusing to support adding "gender identity" to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a proposed federal bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"We're committed to finding legislative solutions that deal with transgender equality at the federal level," said Michael Crawford, senior field organizer for HRC.

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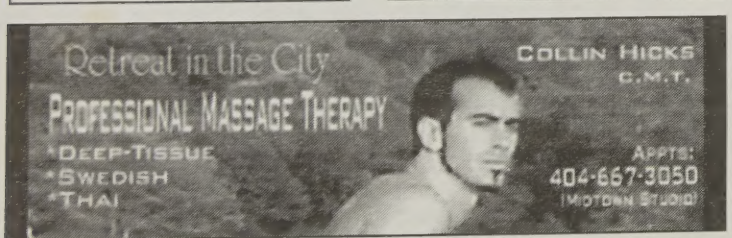

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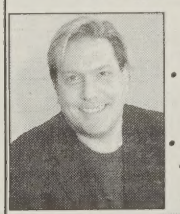

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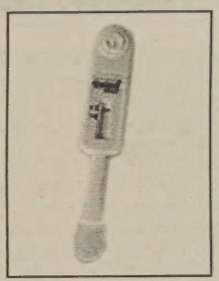
medical report

New HIV test provides quick, accurate results, feds say

WASHINGTON — The government approved a new 20-minute HIV test Nov. 7 that promises on-the-spot diagnosis of the AIDS virus, according to the Associated Press. Most previous HIV tests take days to provide results, and at least 8,000 people a year who test positive never return for the news. Federal AIDS experts said the OraQuick test will help thousands seek treatment and help to dampen the spread of the disease. To use OraQuick, a health worker puts a spot of blood into a vial with developing solution and dips in the sticklike testing device like common pregnancy tests. The test provides results with 99.6 percent accuracy, the FDA said. AIDS activists said a rapid test easy enough for social workers would increase testing availability, but for now it is offered only by certified health workers because of a law that requires a federal waiver, according Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. Manufacturer OraSure Technologies Inc. has not asked for the waiver, but Thompson urged the company to do so.



Federal health officials last week approved **OraQuick**, a new 20-minute HIV test that will help eliminate a wait of up to several days for results.

Gay sheep could explain biology of gays, report asserts

WASHINGTON — Male sheep that mate exclusively with other males have different brain structures from other sheep, U.S. researchers, according to Reuters Health. The differences are similar to those seen in some gay humans, but probably don't fully explain the causes of sexual orientation, the team at Oregon Health & Science University said. "Whether this is a big component of what contributes in humans, that's still debatable," said Charles Roselli, who led the study. "There have been reports in humans that a certain area of the hypothalamus ... was found to be larger in heterosexual men than in homosexual men," Roselli said. "With an animal model you can be more selective and do more controlled studies. In a sense, we confirmed what been found in humans." The brain cells in this area of heterosexual rams also made greater amounts of an enzyme called aromatase, which is active with the hormone testosterone. Roselli said exposure to hormones while still in the mother's womb may affect the brain and cause differences in sexual orientation. More experiments will continue, he added.

San Fran voters approve exploration of marijuana program for medical use

SAN FRANCISCO — Some 63 percent of voters here approved a measure Nov. 5 pushing city officials to explore the establishment of a marijuana growing and distribution program for medical treatment, according to the Associated Press. The ballot proposal was the first of its kind in the country. "I think it speaks very strongly to the city's interest in pursuing the idea further," said supervisor Mark Leno, who proposed the measure. It does not mean that San Francisco will immediately start growing marijuana, but gives officials the right to probe it. Leno said the next steps are the formation of a research committee to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors within a year. Marijuana is illegal under federal law, but legal under California law if it's part of a medical treatment. It is likely that federal officials would try to shutter any program the city approved.

Many HIV patients change meds over side effects, report shows

NEW YORK — Within a given year, more than 10 percent of HIV-positive patients skip doses of their medications, change the dosage or cease treatment because of ill side effects without a doctor's supervision, according to a new study in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiencies. Dr. Katherine Heath of the Center for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver said that patients who change their own regimen can actually increase the virus's ability to resist treatment because traces of the remaining virus may contain mutations, according to Reuters Health. "So when it comes back, it comes back big," Heath said. The researcher noted that the overall number of patients who change their treatment is likely larger than the estimate.

Gates gives $100 million to fight AIDS in India

NEW DELHI, India — Microsoft Chair Bill Gates visited people with AIDS on Monday and pledged $100 million to fight the spread of the disease in India, according to the Associated Press. "It's a very brave thing to speak out, and it's a problem that needs a lot of brave people," Gates told Naveen Kumar, an HIV-positive man who told him how he has been rejected by public-health facilities in India. The monetary grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the largest given by the foundation to a country for AIDS. Indian officials criticized Gates when he cited a recent U.S. National Intelligence Council report predicting the number of HIV-infections in India will rise 500 percent by 2010. Health Minister Shatrughan Sinha, who will chair the board overseeing the grant, described the projections as "completely inaccurate." Gates has been criticized by Indian AIDS prevention workers, who accuse him of siding with a report that they said lacks evidence.

From staff and wire reports

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national news

Arabic linguists discharged from Army for being gay

Emory grad among those fired after disclosing sexual orientation

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The U.S. Army during the past three months discharged nine gay service members who were studying foreign languages at the military's Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., including seven who were studying Arabic, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Seven of the students voluntarily disclosed their sexual orientation, SLDN leaders said, while two other male soldiers at the institute were discovered after a routine, unannounced inspection of their barracks found them lying together in bed. The two acknowledged they were gay and chose not to contest the discharge efforts.

All nine soldiers holding the rank of private were given honorable discharges, according to SLDN.

Alastair Gamble, a 2000 graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, was studying Arabic at the Defense Language Institute when he was caught in bed with his boyfriend, a Korean language student there.

Gamble — who was within weeks of certification as an intelligence collector, the most sought after linguist in the military — said the military's purported focus on national security is less important than enforcing its ban on gays, according to the university student paper, the Emory Wheel.

"The tragedy was not that a gay man was discriminated against, because that happens every day," Gamble told the Wheel. "The tragedy is the military is less equipped to fight a viable and live threat in the Middle East."

The firings come as the military prepares for a likely Mid-East war and faces a shortage of Arabic translators, and as concerns grow over North Korea's possible nuclear capabilities.

Gamble and other fired linguists have expressed a desire to remain on duty.

"The truth is I would like very much to complete my language training and serve my country," PFC Patricia Ramirez told her commanding officer in an April 8 letter. "But if I cannot be honest and have the opportunity to fall in love and have a healthy, caring relationship like everyone else does, then I cannot, in good conscience, serve in the United States Army."

The six other privates studying Arabic shared Ramierz's views, even though they most likely knew at the time they enlisted in the Army that military rules prohibited them from disclosing their sexual orientation, said Steve Ralls, spokesperson for SLDN.

Harvey Perritt, a spokesperson for the U.S. Army Training & Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va., which has jurisdiction over the Monterey-based DLI, confirmed that six soldiers assigned to the linguistics institute were discharged for violating the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Perritt declined to give additional details, saying that doing so would violate the soldiers' privacy.

The nine service members associated with the DLI began contacting SLDN for assistance as early as April, and SLDN withheld public disclosure about the cases because some the soldiers requested that their cases remain confidential, Ralls said.

At least two of the solders, PFC Ramirez and PFC Julie Evans, were willing to go public with their cases, but on SLDN's advice, they chose to wait until their discharge procedures were complete, Ralls said.

According to Ralls, the Army initially declined to take any action against Ramirez and Evans when they disclosed their sexual orientation in writing to Col. Kevin Rice, commander of the DLI. A short time after their disclosures, Rice wrote Evans a letter stating she was being "retained" by the Army, Ralls said.

Capt. Brian Solden, an assistant to Rice, wrote a similar letter to Ramirez. Both letters stated that base investigators had no evidence to indicate the women are lesbians.

Ramirez and Evans responded by arranging for friends and relatives to contact Rice to confirm that they were gay.

SLDN said Rice eventually ordered an investigation into Ramirez and Evans' sexual orientation, which included interviews with fellow service members stationed at the DLI. In some instances, SLDN said, Army investigators threatened soldiers who knew the two women with courts-martial and "jail" if they did not disclose everything they knew about Ramirez and Evans, including details about their sex lives, SLDN said.

"SLDN asks that you immediately halt this inquisition and, in turn, investigate the misconduct" of officials who conducted the investigation, said SLDN attorney Jeffrey Cleghorn, in a May 17 letter to Rice.

"The command at DLI should have closed this case when it told PFC Ramirez to continue with her career," SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn said. "Brave, patriotic Americans should not be fired in the name of federally sanctioned discrimination."

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national news

HRC to 'broaden' agenda beyond ENDA, hate crimes bill

Post-election statement questioned by gay Democrats

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

In the wake of last week's election defeat of pro-gay Democrats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the nation's largest gay political group vowed to expand its agenda by asking Congress to approve gay-related legislation beyond a gay civil rights and hate crimes bill.

"The time has come to consider the myriad federal issues regarding sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to move strategically forward — not just on protection in employment and hate crimes, but on a whole range of economic benefits issues," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Taxation, pension and retirement benefits, immigration and hospital visitation rights as they pertain to gay people are some of the issues HRC plans to promote on Capitol Hill in the coming year, she said.

The group is also evaluating a pilot project to become involved in gubernatorial elections, said Seth Kilbourn, HRC director of field operations. For the first time, HRC endorsed eight candidates for governor Nov. 5. Five of them won.

HRC executive director **Elizabeth Birch** vowed to broaden the group's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill, despite election losses by pro-gay Democrats.

HRC will also continue a grants program it began three years ago to help state gay rights organizations lobby state legislatures for gay rights causes, Kilbourn said.

HRC's plans to venture into new legislative territory at a time when political observers believe Congress will likely be less supportive on gay rights.

Some critics, such as New York gay activist Bill Dobbs, said HRC has little to show for its legislative work during the past 17 months, when Democrats controlled the Senate.

"As long as the Republicans have complete control over Congress, the gay community is not going to see any advances on our current issues, let along new ones," said Steve Elmendorf, the openly gay chief of staff for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.).

"In fact, the conservative faction within the Republican Party will be all over the Republicans in Congress to do negative things to gay people," Elmendorf said.

Veteran gay Democratic activist David Mixner echoed Elmendorf's view.

"I will be happy if we don't lose ground," Mixner said. "Anything on top of that will be a victory. Let's face it, people like [soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader] Trent Lott [R-Miss.] and [soon to be House Majority Leader] Tom DeLay [R-Tex.] don't have our best interests at heart," Mixner said.

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay GOP group, said he remains hopeful that the Republican Congress next year would take up at least one gay-supportive bill — a hate crimes measure written by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Hatch is expected to replace Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) as chair of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over hate crimes legislation.

Senate Democrats earlier this year rejected Hatch's version of the hate crimes measure, saying it did not provide enough authority for the federal government to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes. The Democratic version died in a Republican-sponsored filibuster on the Senate floor.

"I don't want to do what the Democrats do by promising too much," Tafel said. "But I would love to see Senator Hatch's version of the hate crimes bill advanced, and we will work with him to try to accomplish that."

Tafel criticized HRC for now suggesting that issues other than ENDA be placed on the gay legislative agenda. HRC and gay Democrats denounced Tafel earlier this year for suggesting that gays outside the nation's capital view issues like rights for gay couples as more important than ENDA in their "everyday lives."

"It sounds hypocritical for them to attack me on ENDA and now say the same things," he said.

HRC will continue to push for ENDA and a hate crimes bill in addition to the new set of issues, said David Smith, HRC communications director.

"We are not backing away from ENDA," Smith said.

Log Cabin's Tafel said his group's endorsement this year of "pro-inclusion" GOP candidates for the House and Senate would help Log Cabin and other gay groups reach out to Republican lawmakers for support in the next Congress for a hate crimes bill and other legislation.

MORE INFO

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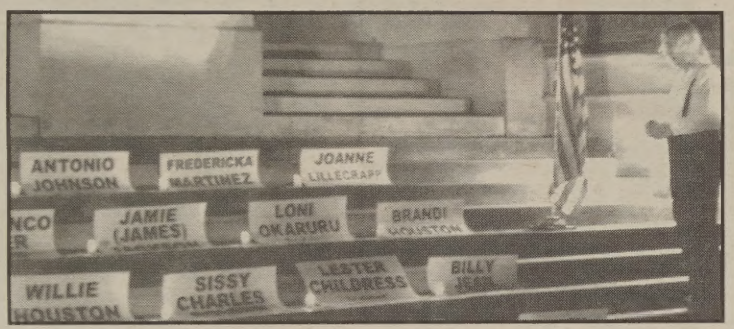
Remembering trans dead

Events honor those killed over real or perceived gender identity

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY



Last year, about 40 people gathered on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol to remember transgendered crime victims, part of the annual **Day of Remembrance** observances held around the country. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Gwen Araujo, 17, is the most recent addition to a death toll being calculated by the Remembering Our Dead project, a Web site documenting murders based on a person's real or perceived gender identity.

Three young men have been charged with killing Araujo, who identified as transgendered, in Newark, Calif., on Oct. 3. The men allegedly beat her, strangled her with a rope and dumped her body in a shallow grave at a remote spot after learning that "Lida" —the name Araujo used that night at a party — was biologically male.

Araujo is just one of the hundreds of people attacked, tortured or strangled that comprise Remembering Our Dead's list of reported victims since 1970.

On Nov. 20, the international Transgender Day of Remembrance, activists in Atlanta and around the country hold events to mourn the loss of 26 people reported killed since last year's Transgender Day of Remembrance.

There are no local names among the 2002 victims. But since the start of the project, "Atlanta is ranked second in all the cities in the United States in the amount of known transgender murders," said Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group in Georgia.

Some of the cases around the country are not as clear cut as Araujo's killing, said Gwen Smith, national coordinator of the Remembering Our Dead Web site.

Regardless of how the victims identify their genders, "it is how their killers perceive them" that matters to the group, Smith said.

Last year, the Web site added to its count the murder of Willie Houston, who was not transgendered.

A man gunned Houston down in a Nashville parking lot on July 29, 2001, after encountering him in a bathroom carrying his fiancé's purse in one hand and leading a blind man with his other hand, according to police reports.

The assailant taunted Houston and the blind man with anti-gay slurs, according to witnesses, and followed Houston to the parking lot where he shot him dead in front of his fiancé on the night of their engagement party.

The scope of transgender-intolerant murders "goes much further" than attacks against only transgendered people, Smith said.

"Violence to one minority is indicative of violence in all minorities," Helms added. "We come together to honor deaths in transgendered communities, and by doing so we are also honoring those in other minorities placed in similar situations."

This year is the deadliest year to date, activists said. On average, one person per month turns up dead due to anti-transgender violence. But the death toll in 2002 stands at 24, according to Remembering Our Dead.

The increase in numbers doesn't mean that more incidents are occurring, Smith said.

Instead, a "stronger awareness" and "greater understanding" of these types of cases has increased the number of cases accurately identified by law enforcement officers and subsequently reported in the media, she said.

"In many cases, the police don't want to provide any information for any number of reasons," Smith said. "In some cases, the police have been very resistant to even discussing the transgendered aspects out of embarrassment."

Transgendered activists hope that through events like the upcoming memorial vigil, people will become sensitized so that future anti-transgendered attacks can be prevented, or at least handled better by law enforcement officers, Smith said.

To help bridge that divide in Atlanta, Sgt. Connie Locke said she plans on attending the Day of Remembrance vigil on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol on Nov. 20. Police Chief Richard Pennington named Locke as the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison officer last month.

Other confirmed speakers at the vigil include Rev. Paul Turner of Gentle Spirit Community Church; Gary Cox, deputy chief operating officer for the city; State Sen.-elect Sam Zamarripa (D-Atlatna); Doug Hall, spokesperson for City Council President Cathy Woolard; Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality; Helms and Dana Brown-Owings of Trans=Action; Dee Dee Chamblee of LaGender, Inc.; and Rabbi Joshua Lesser of Congregation Bet Haverim.

Emory University, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University and Georgia Tech are also planning events centered around the Day of Remembrance.

A list of the dead, as well as information about observances of the Day of Remembrance around the world, can be found on Remembering Our Dead's Web site.

MORE INFO

Day of Remembrance Vigil
Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
431 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
Info@trans-action.org

Remembering Our Dead Project
www.rememberingourdead.org

Georgia State Alliance
Alliancegsu@hotmail.com

Emory University
www.emory.edu/LGBOFFICE

University of Georgia
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Georgia Tech
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR, **Page 24** COMMUNITY NEWS, **Page 25** OCCASIONS, **Page 60**

notes

SUNDAY NOV. 17

State Rep.-elect **Mary Margaret Oliver**, a long-time gay-friendly politician, will speak at All Saints' Church on Nov. 17. Oliver plans to speak on the just finished campaign session and will offer insights into the agenda for the upcoming legislative session. Wine and fellowship begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835

SATURDAY NOV. 16 & SUNDAY NOV. 17

RAINBOW WEEKEND: **The Rainbow Home**, in a massive fundraising effort to stay in operation, benefits from a smattering of events all weekend. Saturday, Miss Q's hosts a pool and dart tournament from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. before the Eagle takes the reigns for an art auction and raffle at 9 p.m. Lutherans Concerned also participates on Saturday with a 7 p.m. banquet at St. John's Lutheran Church. On Sunday, Felix's chimes in with a brunch "eye-opener" party at 12:30 p.m. www.chrishomes.org or 404-486-9034 x104

SATURDAY NOV. 16

CONSENSUS APPEAL: Friends School of Atlanta and Atlanta Friends Meeting sponsor a one-day workshop entitled, **"Building Consensus: Conflict & Unity"** at Atlanta Friends Meeting space on 701 W. Howard Ave. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The $30 registration fee includes the book and lunch. Mary Ann Downey and Vera Stenhouse of Decision Bridges lead the course. 404-892-2358 or madowney@mindspring.com

SUNDAY NOV. 17

THOUGHTFUL THEATER: Friends and associates of Sondra Nelson, former artistic director of Neighborhood Playhouse in Decatur, raise money for her ongoing battle against cancer. The event, dubbed **"This is your Life, Sondra Nelson (uh-oh)!"** begins at 7 p.m. in the Neighborhood Playhouse with food, raffle prizes and skits. It costs $25 a ticket. 404-373-5311

TUESDAY NOV. 19

CHI CHING: Fourth Tuesday examines the spiritual side of money and how it shapes human lives at 6:30 p.m., at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel. Led by Maggie Kulyk, a financial advisor and planner, the **Tao of Money** attempts to help participants reach their life goals. www.fourthtuesday.org/preregister.html or 770-662-4353

local news

Hispanic Network fund-raiser features AIDS Memorial Quilt

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display Saturday as the Georgia Hispanic Network hosts its First Annual Celebration & Art Exhibit, dubbed "An Evening to Remember."

Founded this year, GHNet already cites 130 members and a contact list of more than 2,200, according to Jerry Gonzalez, president of the group's board of directors.

GHNet used as its model the Atlanta Executive Network, a group for gay professionals, Gonzalez said.

"Like AEN's purpose in providing a forum for GLBT people to come together and develop themselves professionally, GHNet wanted to accomplish the same thing," he said. "Hispanic professionals needed a forum to be able to share with one another and develop as professionals.

"AEN was a great model because as a gay man, I was very familiar with their organization and programs," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, who was elected president of GHNet by the group's nine-member board, said he attends events with his partner, Ray, and the two have received a "very warm reception."

Gay people should feel comfortable and welcome at the Nov. 16 celebration, Gonzalez said, noting that at the event "my partner will be publicly thanked for his committed support for my efforts with GHNet."

The event, held at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel Downtown, begins with an art auction open to the public from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and a display of panels from the NAMES Project's AIDS quilt honoring Latinos who have died of the disease.

The celebration begins at 7 p.m., with dinner at 8 p.m. The evening includes a keynote address by state Sen.-elect Sam Zamarripa (D-Atlanta).

Zamarripa, the first Hispanic elected to the state senate, received strong support from gay voters after pledging to support legal recognition for gay couples and domestic partner benefits for state workers.

Proceeds from the event will benefit GHNet's community service activities.

MORE INFO
Georgia Hispanic Network Celebration & Art Exhibit
Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Renaissance Atlanta Hotel
590 West Peachtree St.
Tickets: $60-$85
www.georgiahispanicnetwork.org

Speech explores gay market myths

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

The much-debated spending power of gay and lesbian consumers will be a topic of discussion at the Nov. 21 meeting of the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business group.

Wesley Combs, president of the gay-owned marketing firm Witeck-Combs Communications, will discuss "The LGBT Market: Myths & Realities."

"I feel the single biggest myth about the GLBT consumer market is its perceived affluence," said Combs, whose firm conducts gay-oriented market research in conjunction with Harris Interactive.

That research, Combs said, shows that gay people's incomes mirror the general population.

"The difference exists in the fact that only about 20 percent of GLBT homes have children under the age of 18," Combs said, "leaving the remaining 80 percent of GLBT homes with more discretionary income to spend on items other than feeding, clothing, caring for and educating a child."

About half of Witeck-Combs' work involves companies reaching out to gays, Combs said. The D.C.-based firm's clients include Viacom, American Airlines, Ford Motor Company and IBM, which is sponsoring the Atlanta Executive Network event.

"They have also been a company on the forefront of working with and marketing to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities," said David Payne, AEN president-elect.

While affluence is the biggest myth related to gay consumers, Combs said, "the most important reality for companies looking to reach this market to know is that GLBT consumers positively respond to targeted outreach to them as consumers."

Because the AEN event will examine effective marketing strategies for reaching gays, the group expects a broad audience for next week's meeting.

"We hope to have people from beyond our community come also, to hear how to market successfully to the gay and lesbian community," Payne said.

MORE INFO
Atlanta Executive Network
Speaker: Wesley Combs
Nov. 21, networking at 5:45 p.m., program at 7 p.m.
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel
188 14th St.
Cost: $10 for members, $20 for non-members
404-724-9008
www.aen.org

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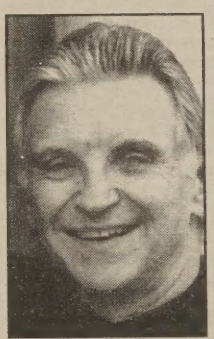

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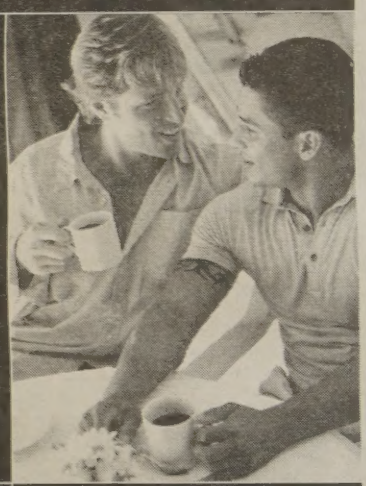

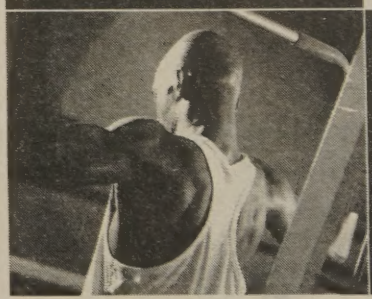

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community calendar

ATHENS

SATURDAY NOV. 16

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 pm. Presbyterian student center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

MONDAY NOV. 18

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 pm. UGA's LGBT student organization. Transgender issues. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

ATLANTA

SATURDAY NOV. 16

ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

BUILDING CONSENSUS: CONFLICT AND UNITY. 9 am.-4 pm. Workshop held at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. 701 W. Howard Ave. $30 registration, 404-892-2358

CHARIS CIRCLE. 11 am. Stories for free children, ages 3-7, to boost self-esteem. 1189 Euclid Ave. www.chariscircle.org

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. Doctors and medical students meet for socializing, support and service. 404-607-0817 or 404-231-2251

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. 1-4 pm. Pool & dart tournament. Dogs & slaw lunch buffet. Miss Q's. www.chrishomes.org

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. 9 pm. Art auction and raffle. The Eagle. www.chrishomes.org

LES AMIES. Social club for African-American lesbians over 50. 404-351-3468

NAGS POTLUCK. 6 pm. Northlake Alliance of Gays/Lesbians & Straights. NAGSAtlanta@yahoo.com or 404-327-9633

SUNDAY NOV. 17

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water polo/ swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

BLACK RAINBOW. 6:30-8 pm. Social, support group for young black, gay and bisexual men. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-378-6620

CHARIS CIRCLE. 8 pm. Litany for survival: the Life of Audre Lorde. Agnes Scott College. www.chariscircle.org or 404-524-0304

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 2 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

GAIA COLLECTIVE. 6 pm. Younger and older women learn from each other. Bring your favorite dish. Topics vary with month. Charis Books, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

LAMBDA DINING OUT GROUP. North suburban group. 770-457-5264, LambdaGroup@msn.com

MOUNTAIN FAMILY NETWORK. Dinners and potlucks for gays who live or weekend in the North GA mountains. 706-864-3229

MY BROTHAZ KEEPER. 6:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, bisexual and questioning men of African heritage, 25-. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 5th floor. 404-978-1268, ext. 1945

PFLAG ATLANTA. 2:30 pm. 770-662-6475

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. 12:30 pm. Eye-opener party. Brunch and more. Felix's. www.chrishomes.org

SISTAS AGING GRACEFULLY EVERYWHERE. 4 pm. Discussion for black women 40+. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

SONDRA NELSON BENEFIT. 7 pm. Neighborhood Playhouse. 430 West Trinity Place. $25. 404-373-5311

MONDAY NOV. 18

FEMME WOMEN FOR BUTCH WOMEN. 6:30 pm. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500 or www.aglc.org

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

TUESDAY NOV. 19

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Survivors support group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA PLAYLAB. 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

BINATURE. 7-9 pm. Bisexual discussion and support group. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Voluntary donation. 404-256-8992

FOURTH TUESDAY. 6:30 pm. The Tao of Money. 770-662-4353 or www.fourthtuesday.org/preregister.html

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WEDNESDAY NOV. 20

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

KENNESAW STATE ALLIANCE. Gay, lesbian, straight alliance. 3:30-4:30 pm. in SS227 and 6:30-7:30 pm. in SS224. Ksuglsa@yahoo.com

PERSONS WITH AIDS (PWA) SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. 725 Lawrenceville Highway. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

RAINBOW HOME TEAS. Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104.

TEEN GROUP. Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

THURSDAY NOV. 21

AIDGWINNETT & POSITIVE PEACHES. 7:30 pm. PWA & family/friends/partners/volunteers support group. Newton General Hospital, 5126 Hospital Dr, Covington. Ground floor in Cafeteria Conference Room. 770-356-5645

ATLANTA EXECUTIVE NETWORK. 404-724-9008

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7:30 – 10 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BOYTALK. 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

CHARIS CIRCLE. 7:30 pm. Feminism 101: Women's action for new directions on US dollars, the military and feminist values. www.chariscircle.org or 404-524-0304

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS LUNCH. Noon. Community leaders discuss events and information. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. First floor. 404-523-7500

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

LATINO GROUP. 6:30-8 pm. LGBTQ, ages 18-24. YouthPride, 404-378-6620

LESBIAN READING GROUP. 404-467-4278

GUYTALK. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

PEOPLE OF COLOR COMMUNITY NETWORK. 7-9 pm. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

SAFE HARBOR. 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FRIDAY NOV. 22

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance

local news

Gay Atlanta youth wins award from national Latino group

ATLANTA — The National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization recently honored Yonnathan Hernandez, 20, with its Youth Leadership Award, presented during LLEGÓ's biennial gathering in Miami. The award recognizes outstanding work by a person 25 or younger who is a "determined activist and role model, who youth can look up to," said Noemí Pérez, LLEGÓ director of policy and public affairs. Hernandez, born in Guadalajara, Mexico, moved to Atlanta eight years ago. In March 2002, he started the Latino/a group at YouthPride, an organization for young people dealing with sexual orientation and gender identity issues. "I saw that there was a need for the Latino/a community to come find support, and knowing that the support groups at YouthPride were in English, I decided to take the lead and start a group in Spanish," Hernandez said. The group, currently comprised of anywhere from two to 10 people, meets twice a month to discuss family, work and school issues, Hernandez said. Now the youth activist wants to mobilize his efforts to include PFLAG and other areas of the state.

Latino youth activist **Yonnathan Hernandez** received national recognition last month for his work with YouthPride in Atlanta. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

"I want to see [the youth group] expand and move toward other communities like Gainesville, Ga.," Hernandez said. "I also want to try to open a PFLAG chapter held in Spanish so not only will the Latino/a youth have support, but also parents who might be struggling and have questions," he said. Hernandez also serves on YouthPride's board of directors.

Christopher Seely

MORE INFO

Latino/a Group
First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.
YouthPride
302 Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
404-378-6620

Gay and lesbian chorus hosts 'coming out' concert

ATLANTA — OurSong, Atlanta's new gay and lesbian mixed chorus, will hold its first concert on Nov. 23 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. "Developing our first concert is a work in progress, and we are very proud of the music we are making, the community we are building and the message we are sharing," said Robert Glor, OurSong artistic director. While Glor is former artistic director of the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, OurSong organizers said they did not form the mixed group to compete with either the women's chorus or the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. "The richness of the combined voices rounds out the diversity that is already found in the current women's and men's choruses. It really makes sense for a large city like Atlanta to have an out mixed chorus to complement the other choruses," said Sue Anne Morgan, communications manager for OurSong. The new chorus began auditions in August and currently has 24 members, including 15 women and nine men, Morgan said. "We are extremely pleased with the sound and energy of this new group," she said. The Nov. 23 event will also feature the first full concert by the Melodivas, a lesbian singing ensemble. "With their tight harmony and diverse repertoire, it was a great match to share the talents and resources of both groups for this first concert," Morgan said. Organizers promise "a delightful appetizer of music and OurSong," including "A Jubilant Song," adapted from a Walt Whitman poem, "If Music Be the Food of Love," several show tunes and even "giddy disco," she said. Advance tickets are available at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Brushstrokes and Charis Books & More.

Laura Douglas-Brown

MORE INFO

OurSong & the Melodivas
Nov. 23, 8 p.m.
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
1790 LaVista Road
Tickets: $12 in advance, $15 at the door
404-222-0443
e-mail: oursongatlanta@aol.com

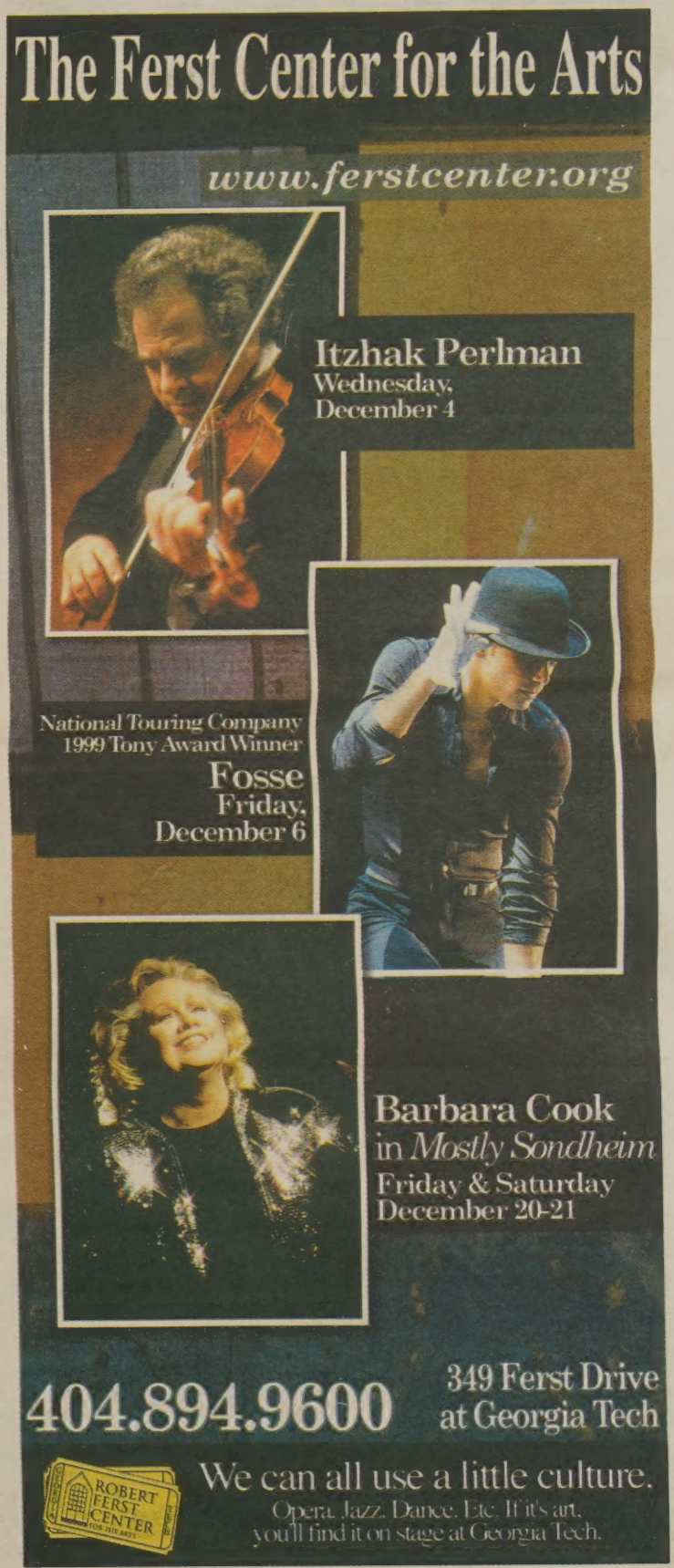
Ala. gay paper on hiatus as editor battles cancer

BIRMINGHAM — The Alabama Forum, the longest consecutively running gay and lesbian paper in the Southeast, is "taking a break," said Judy Jones, the paper's community affairs editor. The volunteer-driven monthly newspaper suffered a tremendous loss when June Holloway, the editor in chief, was diagnosed with cancer and had to halt her 15-year tenure at the Forum. "June has been a moving force behind the paper for years," Jones said. "Those of us who volunteer with the paper come and go, but she has made things happen through the years and reached into her own pocket to keep the paper going." The last issue to hit the stands was produced for October, Jones said. Though the paper is on an indefinite break, "the door is not closing," she said.

Christopher Seely

MORE INFO

Alabama Forum
Judy Jones, community affairs editor
Jjflowgoer@aol.com



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editorial

Your silence will not protect you

In the wake of an apparent **anti-gay beating**, Morehouse College leaders must **stop hiding**, start talking.

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

What are the words you do not yet have?
What do you need to say?
What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?
—Audre Lorde

A SELF-DESCRIBED "BLACK lesbian mother warrior poet," Audre Lorde dedicated her life to exploring and pushing the boundaries of race, class, gender and sexual orientation.

Atlantans will gather on Sunday at Agnes Scott College — a private women's school — to observe the 10th anniversary of Lorde's death.

Across town at Morehouse College — a private, historically black men's school — officials need to spend some time studying her life.

In the height of the AIDS epidemic, activists with ACT UP offered a provocative mantra: Silence equals death.

"The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" — written in 1977, after Lorde's first scare with the breast cancer that would take her life in 1992 — offers an even more revolutionary concept than the ACT UP slogan.

Not only does silence equal death, but we'll all die, sooner or later, whether we speak out or not. So what do we really have to lose?

"My silences had not protected me," Lorde warns. "Your silence will not protect you."

It's a safe guess the essay isn't part of the curriculum at Morehouse, where a student was beaten with a baseball bat in an apparent anti-gay attack earlier this month.

The case smacks, quite literally, of the intent to silence information not only about the beating, but also the culture of homophobia that apparently contributed to it.

The beating took place on Nov. 3. The alleged assailant, Aaron Price, was arrested and out of jail on bond a day later. The school expelled him on Nov. 5.

But the case only came to light a week later, when word trickled out to black gay activists in Atlanta who began contacting the press after they said their calls to Morehouse went unanswered.

What are the words you do not yet have?

The cover-up didn't end there — and it wasn't limited to Morehouse officials.

WAGA, Atlanta's FOX affiliate, reported on the attack during its 6 p.m. news cast on Monday, but omitted any reference to allegations that the attack was anti-gay.

In typically melodramatic television news style, the reporter brandished a baseball bat in front of the camera, asking rhetorically what could have motivated such a violent attack.

The newscast then cut to an interview with Eddie Gaffney, Morehouse's dean of student services, who said the school doesn't know what prompted the beating.

Hogwash, or more accurately, whitewash.

The Morehouse police incident report clearly states that the victim, Gregory Love, told police that Price attacked him after accusing him of "looking" at him in the shower.

Gaffney had already answered questions about the case from a Southern Voice reporter earlier in the afternoon, acknowledging that people are saying the attack was anti-gay.

And WAGA FOX-5 was well aware of the alleged homophobia motive, too. An e-mail about the incident, sent Nov. 10 from a local activist to media outlets, went to at least three recipients at the station.

So why didn't WAGA at least ask the Morehouse administrator about the possibility that the attack was anti-gay? If the apparent motive had been robbery, the station would not have hesitated to report that before it had been proven.

What do you need to say?

In this case, either WAGA was trying to protect the school, or it was engaged in a misguided attempt to protect the victim. Either reason is wrong.

Since the attack, Love's friends, and Love himself, have been quick to say that he is not gay. Whether or not that is true, Love's actual sexual orientation should have no bearing on reporting that the attack was apparently anti-gay.

To suggest otherwise is to buy into the myth that being gay is so shameful that you can't even raise the possibility in connection to someone without proving it beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Even if Love is the most ardent heterosexual on the Morehouse campus, he was attacked for allegedly looking at a man in the shower. That's anti-gay, plain and simple.

It's also the reason why hate crimes laws are written to refer to "perceived" sexual orientation. It's not the identity of the victim that is the defining factor, but the intent of the attacker.

By hiding the anti-gay angle to the crime, WAGA did a disservice to its viewers, because homophobia puts everyone at risk, not just people who actually are gay, and that's a story that needs to be told.

What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own?

While WAGA aired its story perpetuating the lie that school administrators didn't know what prompted the attack, Morehouse officials were busy trying to cancel a student-led forum on homophobia set for Monday.

And when the forum began anyway at 7 p.m., a campus police officer kicked out a reporter from Southern Voice.

That's extremely unfortunate, because gay people in particular need to be aware of some of the attitudes circulating on the Morehouse campus.

"A lot of people believe that [Love] deserved to get beaten up if he was looking in the shower stall," sophomore Mubarak Guy told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "But everyone thinks the bat was a little extreme."

If a fractured skull is only "a little extreme" as punishment for stealing a glance in the shower, God save the gay person who actually makes a pass at a Morehouse man.

Much has been made of the allegedly rampant homophobia among blacks, too often by white gays trying to excuse their own lack of outreach, and AIDS prevention workers anxious to explain their alarming failure at reaching young black gay men.

But this case is frighteningly clear-cut: An apparently anti-gay beating occurs at Morehouse, and school leaders try to cover it up. Instead of sponsoring forums to address the problem, they try to thwart them. Instead of reaching out to black gay activists for help in educating students, they ignore them.

And as a small group of brave gay Morehouse students begin speaking out about the culture on their campus, where are the gay alumni, faculty and staff to back them up? Fear is no excuse for staying quiet. Greg Love isn't openly gay, and that didn't protect him.

Lorde concludes:

It is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken.

It's time for the men of Morehouse to start talking.

@ Laura Douglas-Brown is news editor of Southern Voice. She can be reached at lbrown@sovo.com.

letters

Gender stereotyping at the ballot booth

To the Editor:

I am a resident of Ormewood Park, a very diverse neighborhood, both in terms of color and sexual orientation. I went to vote Nov. 5 at Ormewood Presbyterian Church on Woodland Avenue.

As I stood at the fourth desk for checking in, I overheard the woman who had checked my name at the third desk say to her neighbor, "that was a girl!" I turned and said, "That was rude."

She denied saying it, but I asked for the person in charge of the polling station and told her what had happened. Her response was less than appropriate; she said, "You have to understand, these people are volunteers."

This struck as more of a dismissal than handling the situation. As I spoke to her, she began to be upset with me, stating that I was yelling. I explained that I would continue to talk loudly until she handled the situation properly. (I was not yelling, although it takes the focus off of her to say I was.)

I walked to get my voting card, and the woman in charge followed me.

She called me over to the side, along with another man, and lectured me about my behavior. I explained that I don't work for her, the woman who made the offensive remark does. I then said my goodbyes and went to vote.

My partner went to the polling station after I arrived home upset. The woman in charge gave a different (and dishonest) account of what happened, as did the offending woman.

I want everyone to know that we are still in the dark-ages with regard to what people consider acceptable to say. I am moving away from this Bible-Belt Hell and will not be back.

MISSIE EDWARDS
Atlanta

War is a gay issue

To the Editor:

What a crock of bull. ("Iraqi war isn't a gay issue," letter, Nov. 8).

If anyone truly believes that war is not a gay issue, they are either incredibly naive or they have a ridiculously narrow view of the world.

Most issues affect gay people as citizens of the United States. Whether it be war or taxes or Social Security or porn, we're affected by the actions of our leaders.

This is one gay man who is adamantly opposed to war with Iraq. Dubya has done absolutely nothing to convince me that Saddam Hussein is a threat.

Quite the contrary, I firmly believe that self-preservation is Hussein's top goal. Any idiot knows that the moment Saddam makes an aggressive move, he's toast. He knows that.

Dubya has a personal vendetta against Saddam, and he's using the weak minded among us to advance his sick agenda.

Wake up and smell the coffee, girls. Dubya will stop at nothing to get what he wants.

ERIC PEARSON
Atlanta

Bush nominee proved Scouts are hate group

To the Editor:

In his editorial "Tipping the scales too far" (Sept. 20), Chris Crain seems to share a common misunderstanding of what the Supreme Court ruled in its decision allowing the Boy Scouts of America to exclude gays from membership when he says that the court ruled "no law can control the membership rules for private groups."

The actual ruling was that the Boy Scouts of America has the same right to limit its membership as any other hate group. Michael McConnell, the BSA lawyer who has been nominated by President Bush for the federal bench, never argued that the Boy Scouts are a private organization. Instead, he focused on a legal technicality widely known as "the hate group argument," which goes like this:

Hate groups have a right to exist, and therefore they have a right to exclude from membership those people they exist to express hatred of. McConnel got the Supreme Court majority to buy his argument that expressing hatred of homosexuals is one of the main reasons that he Boy Scouts exists at all.

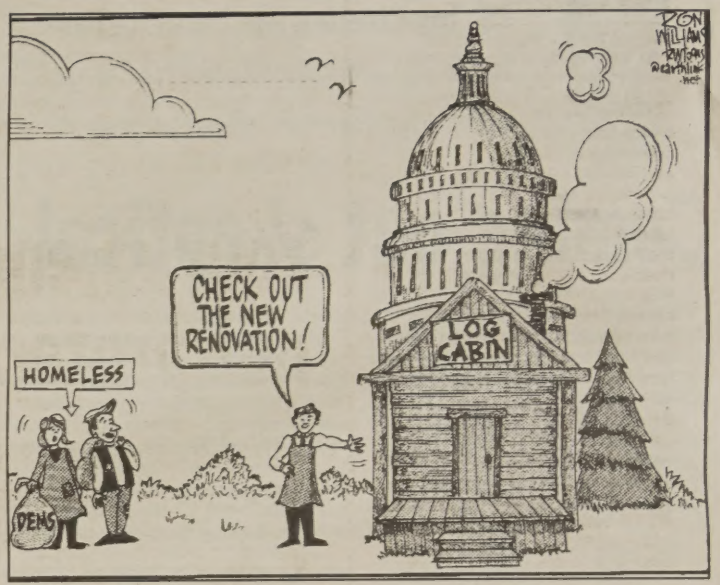
He used the euphemism "expressive organization" instead of the phrase "hate group," but the justices seem to have been well aware of what "expressive organization" includes. When the phrase was cited in the majority decisions, a couple of the judges seemed embarrassed by it.

In different news stories that appeared before the decision, McConnell was quoted as defending the exclusionary policy by saying that the Boy Scouts of America deserved the same treatment as the Ku Klux Klan. He was referring to legal treatment, but he could have chosen an example less likely to embarrass himself and his organization later. If was being facetious, the joke is now on him.

What Michael McConnell now deserves is to be quoted accurately and agreed with. He will go down in history as the man who turned the Boy Scouts of America into a hate group — literally — and got the Supreme Court to define it as a hate group legally.

Seldom has the defender of a group done so much more to stigmatize a group than the group's opponents ever had.

ROBERT S. WOODWARD
Lakewood, Ohio



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

The Ambassadors
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...MY MIDDLE NAME? UM, CONSTANCE. AFTER MY AUNT. HANG ON, SOMEONE'S BEEPING IN.
HELLO?
11/6
402
HI, IT'S ME.
UH... SWEETIE, I CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW, I'M WORKING ON A PROJECT WITH ONE OF MY CLASSMATES.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU I'LL BE HOME LATE. I HAVE THAT THING AT 6.
OH, RIGHT! YOUR FIRST MAMMO! DON'T WORRY, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. THEY JUST CLAMP YOUR TITS IN A VISE FOR A COUPLE SECONDS.
THANKS. SAY HI TO YOUR LITTLE LIBRARIAN CHUM.
STUDENTS for JUSTICE in PALESTINE
UNIVERSITY HILLEL INVEST in ISRAEL
DR. KRUKOWSKI? HAVE YOU SIGNED THE PETITION CALLING FOR THE UNIVERSITY TO DIVEST FROM ISRAEL?
UH... NO.
DR. K! HERE! SIGN OUR PETITION NOT TO DIVEST.
SORRY. I FIND PETITIONS TRITE.
WHAT AN ASSHOLE.
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.
LATER THAT SAME DAY, DOWNTOWN...
WHAT'D I MISS?
THIS GUY'S JUST SAYING BUSH'S UNILATERAL FOREIGN POLICY MAKES US LESS SECURE, NOT MORE.
EARTH TO BUSH: DON'T ATTACK IRAQ
USE YOUR WORDS
Y'KNOW, YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT IN TERMS OF YOUR PERSONAL LIFE, GINGER. MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
WHAT??
NOT IN OUR NAME
U.S. AGAINST THE WORLD! NO THANKS
IT'S LIKE, YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONE IN CONTROL, BUT YOU CAN'T BE IN CONTROL IN A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP. SO YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF, AND YOU THINK THAT KEEPS YOU FROM GETTING HURT. BUT IN FACT, THE BEST SECURITY STRATEGY IS DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHERS.
PERHAPS THIS ALSO EXPLAINS WHY YOU PREFER DOGS TO PEOPLE.
HELLO, BEAUTIFUL!
ANUBIS! HEEL!
HE'S NOT EXACTLY AN ALPHA.
THAT'S OKAY. SHE IS.
WHO'S A PUPPY? WHO'S A GREAT BIG PUPPY?

viewpoint JOHN CORVINO

Can **true Christians** reject what the Bible has to say about homosexuality? Can gays accept that there are **atheists** among us?

Coming out skeptical

A YOUNG MAN NAMED JOSH RECENTly wrote to me from Texas to ask, "Can you really be a true Christian with Jesus, accepting him as your savior, and still doubt the Bible?"

This was a hard question, and not because I hadn't given it thought before. Quite the contrary, I struggled with the question myself for years. Rather, the question was hard because I knew Josh wasn't going to like my answer.

Full disclosure: I'm an atheist. While I think it's possible that there's some higher power, I don't think we ought to alter our lives one bit because of that vague and unsubstantiated possibility.

Some would prefer to label me an agnostic, but the term is misleading in my case. "Skeptic" comes a bit closer. But whatever you call me, please understand: I don't believe in God.

This admission strikes many people as disreputable, even arrogant. After all, they point out, there are many intelligent people who believe in God. True enough.

But there are also many intelligent people who do not. Indeed, there are billions of people around the world — decent, well-meaning, and often quite intelligent people — whose religious convictions are mutually incompatible with yours, whatever yours might happen to be. Which goes to prove that the fact that many sincere and intelligent people believe something doesn't make it true.

WE AS GAY PEOPLE OUGHT TO UNDERstand that last point better than anyone. And yet I've often found coming out as an atheist to fellow gay people even harder than coming out as gay to straight people.

I've had gay friends snap back "No you're not!" when I mention my atheism. That, by the way, is rude. I would never question the sincerity of their religious convictions, even though I sharply disagree with those convictions.

However, while I don't believe in God, I have a soft spot for sincere religious people. Which brings me back to Josh, a gay college freshman struggling to reconcile his longstanding religious convictions with his budding awareness of his homosexuality.

I've been there: It's scary. And I suspected Josh probably wasn't ready for radical reevaluation of his faith.

So I began by informing him that although I myself am an atheist, there are plenty of devout Christians who believe that biblical faith and homosexuality are compatible.

Then I waded into somewhat deeper water. Those who believe in both the infallibility of the Bible and the morality of homosexuality argue that traditional prohibitions of homosexual conduct rest on misreadings of the biblical text. And these arguments have some plausibility.

However, there are good reasons to doubt the Bible is infallible, including internal contradictions, historical errors, and bad moral advice (for example, God's support of slavery in Leviticus 25).

A more coherent approach, I think, acknowledges that the Bible contains error but still considers it a valuable guide as a whole. As one friend put it, we ought not confuse complete faith in God with complete faith in our ability to discern God's voice.

THE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH, as Josh seemed to suspect, is that once you allow that the Bible makes some mistakes, you might well wonder whether it makes mistakes on those very matters that led you to accept Christian faith in the first place.

After all, the very frailties and prejudices that led the biblical authors and editors to accept erroneous moral teachings (like the ones about slavery and homosexuality) might have led them to make mistakes about whether Jesus performed miracles, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and so on.

If it's plausible that they made mistakes about morality, then surely it's plausible that they made mistakes about matters of faith.

To say this is not to suggest that those who assembled the Bible were deceitful. It is simply to suggest that Christianity, like other world religions, may tell us more about human hopes, dreams, fears and foibles than about a transcendent God.

The biblical passages regarding homosexuality did not ring true to Josh, and he (quite rightly) began to doubt the Bible's infallibility. He wanted to know if he could do that while still accepting Christ as his Lord and Savior. Of course he can; many people do. I just don't think, in light of the evidence, that they should.

The religious right is going to feel quite empowered in light of the recent election. It's high time for a healthy dose of religious skepticism.

John Corvino teaches philosophy at Wayne State University and is the editor of 'Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality'; he can be reached through this publication.

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southern voice

viewpoint DORINDA HENRY

It's time that leaders of our black gay community **stop taking orders** from the white gays who appointed them, and fight our own battles.

Let's get off the slave block

ONCE AGAIN I OPENED SOUTHERN Voice to read about things that I suppose a significant percentage of white lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender people are interested in. There's local news about white gay men, issues that they have determined as being important to them, updates for their heath and their well-being.

The words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are being used to impede the progress in the fight for their rights. I could go on, but why should I? Generally speaking, the white LGBT community is not interested in us, nor are they interested in being affiliated with us. Their issues are not ours and they have no intention of making them so. Why? Because they don't have to.

The Southern Voice's weekly coverage suggests that it likes perpetuating negative perceptions of the African-American experience. One recent issue focused on the lack of coverage of the Black Gay Pride celebration and march by Atlanta's mainstream black media publications.

Jimmie Scott, a leader of the African-American same-gender-loving community chosen by white gays, was called upon to condemn the big, bad black community for not supporting the cause. It should be no surprise that this same black gay "leader" is a board member of Georgia Equality, an organization with a history of being exclusively white gay and male oriented in its representation and political advocacy.

Without the anointed "legitimacy" of this black gay leader through his association with this organization, we would not know nor would we care what he thought about anything, much less what he thought about the African-American community and its perceived mistreatment of its sexual minority.

WHAT STRIKES ME MOST PROFOUNDLY is his obvious indifference to opinions expressed by white gays that blatantly disregard his humanity. For example, in a May 23 viewpoint column ("Can sex finally bridge the gay race divide?"), Michael Alvear stereotyped the black gay male activist as angry and violent. Yet there was no response.

Though the column consistently dehumanized the black gay male activist by comparing him to the likes of a clucking hen, there was no response. Furthermore, though the article exposed the racial arrogance of Alvear and arguably the white LGBT community — ignorance and contempt for black people — there was no response, no anger and no disappointment.

It's odd that the author's racial impudence did not elicit any feelings in Jimmie Scott, our anointed black leader, in the same manner he offered in response to the perceived disregard of the black media.

While he stands on his slave block lamenting, "What we are looking for is for the black community in Atlanta to finally start acknowledging that we are here," he curiously turns a blind eye and a mute voice to the fact that white gays don't acknowledge that we are here, either.

Scott's persistent complaints about what Atlanta's African-American community is or is not doing to embrace all of its members loses a lot in its translation when he ignores or even tolerates the pervasive racism, sexism and classism in the white gay community, including within the very organization responsible for his leadership.

ABOUT ME SOME WILL SAY, "SHE'S angry." To that I say, "Yes, I am."

Some will say, "She's bitter." To that I say, "Yes, I am."

Some will say, "I just wish she would shut up and go away." To that I say, "Sorry, but no."

I am tired of certain factions in the white LGBT community dictating to us how we ought to organize and around what issue. I'm tired of their destructive and divisive meddling by exploiting and prostituting members of our racial kinship to vilify our racial group.

I'm not asking for much, just a little equal opportunity, an equal distribution of goods and services and a hell of a lot more integrity.

I'm asking that these appointed leaders of the African-American same-gender-loving community think and believe enough in the wealth of talent within our own group to do what needs to be done for ourselves.

I'm asking that we stop participating in our own oppression by looking left when we should be looking right. Here's a suggestion: Let's get off of that slave block and get into being free.

Dorinda Henry lives in Atlanta and can be reached through this publication.

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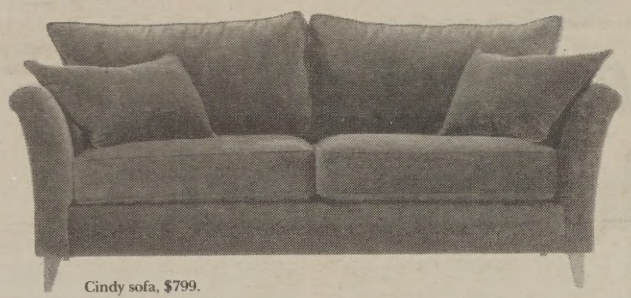

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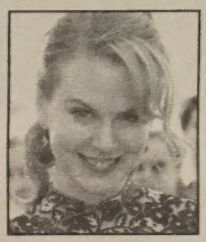
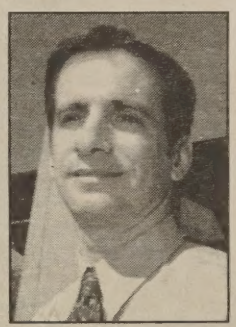


"They've said I'm gay, they've said everyone's gay. I personally don't believe in doing huge lawsuits about that stuff. Tom does. That's what he wants to do; that's what he's going to do. You do not tell Tom what to do. That's it. Simple. He is a force to be reckoned with."

*Actress **Nicole Kidman**, denying that she and ex-husband Tom Cruise were each other's beards (Vanity Fair, December issue)*

"All the good done by the Golden Jubilee is diminishing day by day. The image of the Windsors has been blackened by each twist, from the widespread flogging off of royal gifts to the rampant promiscuity of gay palace staff."

Columnist Richard Kay, one of Britain's most well-known royal watchers, on the scandal surrounding reports that Prince Charles helped cover up accusations that one of his guards sexually assaulted another male guard (Reuters, Nov. 11)



"There are not a lot of party leaders in my district who are my allies."

***Neil Giuliano**, the gay Republican mayor of Tempe, Ariz., speculating on election night that he might switch parties because the Democrats in his state are moving to the political center, while the GOP moves to the right (Arizona Republic, Nov. 6)*

"I've had so many friends who were homosexual and who shared interests with me, who were generous and non-competitive and sensitive. I couldn't afford to lose them, and to condemn them in my own mind would be to lose them. So I lined up with them emotionally. I'm really not an avowed heterosexual. I'm no more proud of it than of being white or tall."

Clinical psychologist George Weinberg, whose pioneering work in the early 1970s led the Oxford English Dictionary to credit him with coining the word "homophobia" (GayToday.com, Oct. 30)

"Julianne Moore has been my favorite actress since I saw 'Safe,' and I am thrilled to trade my own mother in for her."

Gay author Augusten Burroughs about the casting of Moore to play his mother, who is also gay, in the screen adaptation of his memoir "Running with Scissors." (Variety, Nov. 7)

"Someone said that me kissing a guy is like Nixon going to China. He was so staunchly anti-Communist he could go. I feel the same way. I'm a confirmed heterosexual who can go to China."

*Actor **Dennis Quaid**, on his romantic scene with another man in the new movie 'Far From Heaven' (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 10)*

"It's a great kiss because it's Dennis Quaid. He's a great-looking guy, not just an actor, but a movie star. I know it tells other actors it's OK to play gay. There's nothing to be afraid of."

Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, on Quaid's on-screen kiss (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 10)

"When you see two guys kissing, it pretty much demonstrates they're not kidding."

Gay writer Paul Rudnick ("Jeffrey," "In & Out") on the surprised reaction from audiences to two men kissing on screen, even after gay male culture and humor has reached mainstream acceptance in projects like "Birdcage" and "Will & Grace" (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 10)

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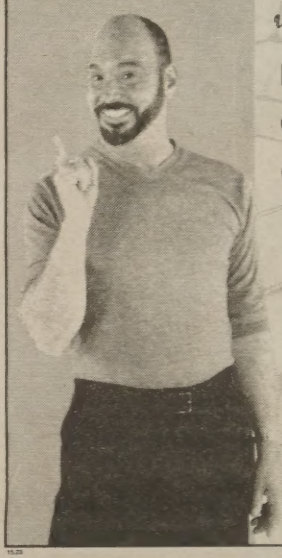

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BROADWAY BABY: Elton John's 'Aida' brings down the house in local run of recent smash hit. **Page 45**

OSCAR HOPES: Latest from gay director stars Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid dealing with homosexuality in the '50s. **Page 35**

The music industry is more open and accepting, but indiscretions like George Michael's bathroom sex are still career-breakers, according to **Marc Almond** (right), the gay frontman for Soft Cell, shown here with music partner **Dave Ball**. (Photos by Joe Dilworth)

Riding the resurgence of '80s electro-pop, band tries comeback album and concert tour

By ARJAN TIMMERMANS

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF 18 years, gay synth-pop pioneers Soft Cell return to the music scene with the international release of their new album, "Cruelty Without Beauty." Even though Marc Almond and Dave Ball both enjoyed moderate commercial success as solo artists, they were never able to repeat the success of their earlier collaborations, including the chart-topping dance classic "Tainted Love."

The band hits Atlanta on their revitalized tour of the states on Nov. 21 in a concert that the band hopes will rekindle fond memories for folks in their thirties while wooing new fans of an older sound.

The group debuted in 1981 and rocked the British music scene in the early '80s with Almond's out-of-control, extravagant persona. More defining to some fans of the era was the duo's illicit drug habits as they got sucked into the emerging Manhattan XTC club scene.

Soft Cell's music gradually turned darker and edgier, reflecting their hardcore lifestyle and wild sexual experimentation. Before their final album "This Last Night in Sodom" arrived in 1984, the duo disbanded in a hazy, drugged out disarray.

Almost two decades later, the duo has matured, presenting a cleaner, harmonious sound on the latest release. With tight dance beats, ringtone-inspired synth hooks and Almond's emotion-filled electro crooning, Soft Cell delivers a collection of tunes that provide hope and affection ("All Out Of Love," "On and Up," "Last Chance") and a heavy dose of social commentary ("Darker Times," "Monoculture," "Sensation Nation").

But "Cruelty Without Beauty" also features some of the group's unmistakable twisted taste for masochistic poetry, as portrayed on the grotesque "Le Grand Guignol" and "Caligula Syndrome."

SOFT CELL'S OVER-THE-TOP GAY frontman Marc Almond took a break in advance of the tour to talk about the new CD and his frank views on sexuality in the age of AIDS.

SoVo: Why did you reunite with Dave to record this new record?

Almond: We never planned for this to happen. In 1998, we got together just to write some songs together. When we were in the process of doing this, it actually felt very good. This was the right moment to record together. We didn't want this good moment to go to waste.

SoVo: What is your chemistry with Dave?

Almond: It is hard to explain. In Soft Cell, he does the music and the production, and I do the vocals and lyrics. It is a very clear-cut and easy-going way of working with him.

We also have a very similar twisted, dark and cynical type of humor. My writing is different with Soft Cell. For myself, I write more romantic and introspective songs, and for Soft Cell I really write for two people.

I tend to write songs that incorporate social comments and elements of modern culture.

SoVo: Why did you choose "Monoculture" as the first single?

Almond: I think the first consideration when we choose a single is not so much to choose a song that has chart potential, but more a song that advertis-

Please see **SOFT CELL**, Page 51

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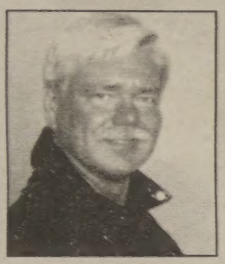

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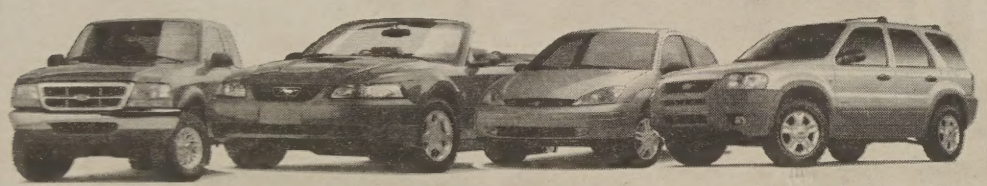

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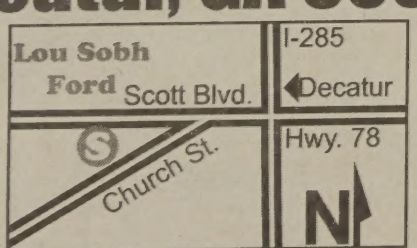

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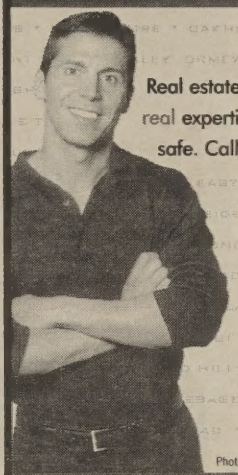

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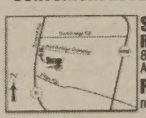

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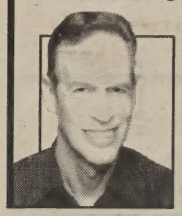
film STEVE WARREN



New film accurately captures era when gay was taboo with costumes, acting that promise **next Oscar's Great Gay Hope.**

Fabulous '50s?

THE BEST WAY TO APPRECIATE where we are is to look back at where we've been. "Far from Heaven" looks back 45 years at attitudes regarding race and homosexuality, and while some may say things haven't changed much, most viewers will be aware of a seismic shift.

Writer-director Todd Haynes ("Safe," "Poison," "Velvet Goldmine") and his crew have gone overboard in making "Far from Heaven" look like an artifact from the 1950s. The cars, the clothes, the production design, the music and the cinematic style all reek of the period to the extent that when the once-taboo topics are introduced, it's as if someone farted in an "I Love Lucy" episode.

Like fellow gay filmmakers Francois Ozon ("8 Women") and Pedro Almodovar, Haynes is emulating the melodramas of director Douglas Sirk. It bothered me that "Far from Heaven" uses its temporal distance to create an emotional distance between the audience and the characters. Whether this is intentional or not, it keeps us from relating fully to the people, even though we pity them as they go through their tribulations.

And tribulations abound in this picture-perfect glimpse into what starts out looking like a picture-perfect family. Cathy (Julianne Moore) and Frank Whitaker (Dennis Quaid) and their two young children live an ideal middle-class existence in Hartford, Conn.

She's "the proud wife of a successful sales executive" for the Magnatech appliance company. The couple even appears together in ads as "Mr. & Mrs. Magnatech."

CATHY BUSIES HERSELF WITH SUPERvising the maid and gardener, volunteering for cultural and charity affairs and socializing with the rest of the ladies who lunch, especially her best friend, Eleanor (Patricia Clarkson). One day she's frightened by a strange Negro outside the house, but it turns out to be Raymond Deagan (Dennis Haysbert), who has taken over his late father's gardening duties.

A few days later, Cathy sees Raymond again when he's the only non-white (besides his 11-year-old daughter) at a gallery opening. That Cathy speaks to him scandalizes her friends and makes her the talk of Hartford. This doesn't keep their friendship from deepening, although it doesn't get as deep as it might in a perfect world.

In the meantime Frank, who's been working a lot of nights to prepare for the introduction of his company's 1958 line of products, calls for Cathy to get him out of jail.

The seemingly perfect 1950s family life of **Julianne Moore** and **Dennis Quaid** unravels as he deals with being gay in 'Far from Heaven.'

As he explains the "silly, wretched mistake," the police mistook him for a "loiterer" they were after. It soon becomes obvious to us and eventually to Cathy that Frank indeed "loiters," one of the charges used to arrest homosexuals in the '50s. We even get a look inside a sad, secretive gay bar of the period.

We also meet a visiting uncle (J.B. Adams), one of those homosexuals too obvious to hide, who works as an art dealer in New York.

The devoted Cathy helps Frank find a modern-thinking therapist who warns Frank that he has no more than a "five to 30 percent chance for complete heterosexual conversion."

"I can't let this thing destroy my life, my family's life," Frank tells him. "I know it's a sickness because I feel despicable."

MOORE DOES A FANTASTIC JOB OF wearing the acting style of the '50s as comfortably and attractively as the clothes. Quaid is less successful, but he manages to make the awkwardness seem more Frank's than his own as he holds cigarettes Bette Davis style and crosses his legs in ways that would embarrass a drag queen.

Early Oscar buzz has Moore getting more recognition for this performance than she did in Haynes' largely overlooked "Safe."

"Far from Heaven" could bring Haynes some well-deserved attention too. While I might have preferred it to be more involving, for the film Haynes set out to make, this one is not far from perfect. For gay content and characters, this should be the Academy's Great Gay Hope for an Oscar in March.

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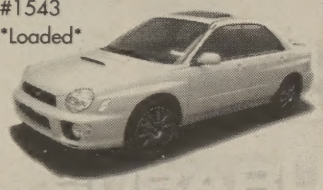

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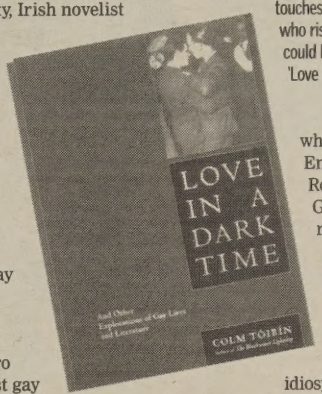
Essay collection on history's gay icons taken from century when **'love that dare not speak its name'** could mean prison or death.

Gay as second place



Colm Toibin's essays on gay icons touches on film and literary greats who risked being openly gay when it could bring harsh consequences in 'Love in a Dark Time.'

ASKED IN 1993 TO WRITE AN ESSAY about his homosexuality, Irish novelist Colm Toibin said no.

"I told [the editor] instantly I could not do that," Toibin said at the time. "My sexuality was something about which part of me remained uneasy, timid and melancholy."

Toibin was a perennial prizewinner even before he delved into gay themes. But finally, in 1998, "The Story of the Night" did include gay content and won a Ferro Grumley Award for best gay novel of the year. It was later named to the Publishing Triangle list of 100 best gay and lesbian novels of all time.

For a late bloomer, Toibin has been no less astute, subtle and informed with his gay novels as he was with his original works. The poignancy and immediacy he indulges in his writing is satisfying, and 11 articles and reviews are now collected in "Love in a Dark Time."

In his introduction, Toibin concedes, "This is a book about gay figures for whom in the main being gay seemed to come second in their public lives."

This suggests a shadowy sexuality unlikely to illuminate the "dark time" of the book's title.

By "dark time," Toibin means a specific temporal span, marked at its start by the trial of Oscar Wilde in 1895 and extending 100 years, until laws proscribing gay sex in Ireland were rescinded. While these two events are fortuitously a century apart, they are not self-evidently signposts of an historical epoch.

THE COLLECTION BEGINS ENGAGINGLY with "Roaming the Greenwood," which ambles through literature from William Shakespeare to Jorge Luis Borges, halting at Constantine Cavafy, Marcel Proust and Walt Whitman, to name just three among many.

The rest of the people who fill up Toibin's gay century do not seem to be either a universal or personal pantheon. Marketplace considerations appear to have had an influence.

Toibin's pieces on filmmaker Pedro Aldomovar and painter Francis Bacon are the collection's only non-literary luminaries. Except for Elizabeth Bishop, a woman, Thomas Mann, a German, and James Baldwin, a black man, the others are four white males who wrote in English. Oscar Wilde, Roger Casement, Thom Gunn and Mark Doty round out the list.

Despite the charm of his book's title, Toibin makes no effort to explore or develop it as a thesis or point of view. And given his idiosyncratic selection, he would have been hard pressed to do so.

This is the book's unfulfilled promise and its disappointment.

OF THE LOT IN TOIBIN'S COLLECTION, Roger Casement's name may fall unfamiliar on American ears, but he led a fascinating life full of intrigues and shenanigans, travel, commerce, politics and diplomacy, high honors and a low fall. Even after death, Casement suffered grotesque abuse.

Toibin's treatment of Casement is just, sympathetic and laudatory. Readers may put down the book with the notion that — for Toibin — Casement is already martyred, but awaits gay canonization and sainthood.

Although — or perhaps because — he was hanged for treason by George VI in 1916, many now regard Casement as a patriot in the fight for Irish independence. But in the matter of Casement's homosexuality, there is less heroism.

Evidence strongly suggests that Casement was a pedophile. These accusations were made in his own lifetime, and then as well as since, Casement's so-called Black Diaries, which some regard as forgeries, have been cited as proof.

Like his contemporary Wilde, who was tried, convicted and punished at hard labor in Reading Goal for sodomy, Casement lived in a dark time.

For these two men especially, Toibin infuses his essays with that sense of melancholy he admits having about his own sexuality. Toibin is reticent rather than bold, and that's his book's understated charm.

MORE INFO
'Love in a Dark Time'
By Colm Toibin
288 pages, $24

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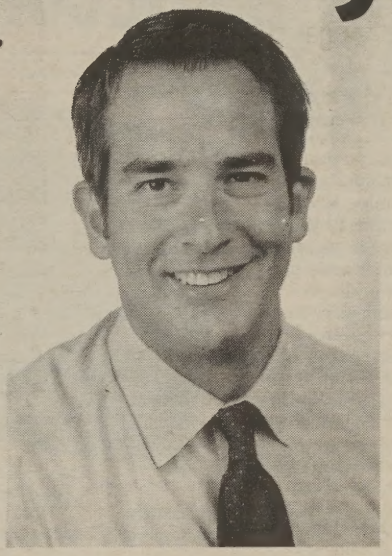

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I want my gay TV

Recent developments look like small screen is place to be for gay characters

Alan Cumming

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LATEST television season, the buzz was that this is the least gay season that the small screen has experienced in years. Well, they don't call it the boob tube for nothin'!

It looks like the gay mafia that former Hollywood heavy hitter **MIKE OVITZ** blabbed about finally took matters into its own hands. Apparently, gay characters are coming out of the woodwork and television will again be the place where queens reign supreme.

Next week, screen veteran **MARIEL HEMINGWAY** plays a lesbian radio psychologist and possibly homicidal maniac on NBC's "Crossing Jordan." Hemingway is no stranger to sailing the Sapphic seas, playing a lesbian in 1982 in the movie "Personal Best," and swapping spit in 1994 with Roseanne in a much hyped episode of the sitcom by the same name.

Hemingway told TV Guide that she recently watched "Personal Best" with her two teenage daughters.

"They said, 'Mom, you're naked!' Then they said, 'Oh, my God, are you gay?'" the actress said. "I told them, 'No, I'm not gay. [My character] was just confused. And it's a movie. And there's nothing wrong with that."

While Hemingway may think that some of her gay characters are confused, she certainly isn't going to be confused about the paycheck she's cashing from her gig on "Crossing Jordan," one of the first she's received in a long time.

IF HEMINGWAY NEEDS MORE regular work — and boy does she need work — she might grab a guest spot on the upcoming Showtime series tentatively titled "Earthlings."

The show is like a "Queer as Folk" for the ladies, trailing a group of lesbian friends who live in Los Angeles. The cable network ordered production of the series to begin but hasn't indicated how many episodes it wants, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The series will star Flashdancer **JENNIFER BEALS**, blax-ploitation queen **PAM GREIR** and **MIA KIRSHNER**, formerly of the show "24." While this is some top-shelf talent, there have yet to be any openly lesbian actresses added to the cast.

While the ladies are living and loving in L.A., the boys will be solving crime around the country. Martin/Stein Co., a production company co-owned by comedian and 2002 Academy Awards ceremony host **STEVE MARTIN**, announced in Variety that it's beginning production on a series called "Mr. and Mr. Nash" for ABC.

The series is described as a "gay 'Hart to Hart'" where a couple of gay interior designers, partners in both business and love, solve a different murder each week. The result is designed to be a fun, campy and silly send-up of the detective genre.

"I am proud to be a part of 'Mr. and Mr. Nash,'" Martin told Variety. "Especially the part where it's a big hit."

So far, gay actor **ALAN CUMMING**, who will be in this summer's "X-Men 2," has signed on to play one of the Mr. Nashes, and casting for his partner will begin shortly.

WHILE MARTIN AND COMPANY ARE searching for Mr. Nash number two, they might want to send their rejects over to NBC's "Will & Grace." Jhoni Marchinko, an executive producer on the world's gayest sitcom, told TV Guide that they are in the process of casting Will's first steady boyfriend.

Don't expect occasional guest star **MATT DAMON** to play the part, or any of the other big names that the show often uses for stunt casting, because the show is looking for someone a bit more low-key.

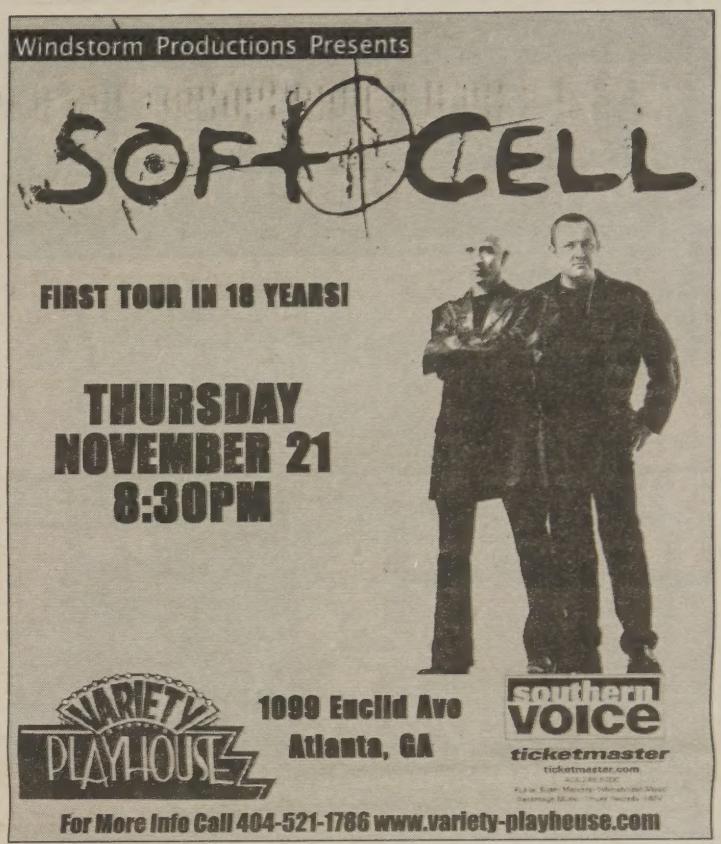
"I don't think we're going to look for a big stunt. I always like it when somebody that used to be kind of famous [gets cast in a plum part]," Marchinko says. "That way you can revive their career."

Paging **DANNY PINTAURO** and **CHAD ALLEN**.

PBS will be bringing **LANCE LOUD**, reality TV's first gay man, back into the pop culture mainstream. Loud, who died earlier this year, came out to his family on the second episode of "An American Family" and shocked '70s America on the first reality TV show of all time.

On Jan. 6, PBS will re-broadcast that episode of the show, where the Loud parents visit son Lance in Chelsea, as well as a documentary special "A Death in the American Family," that commemorates Loud's life.

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.



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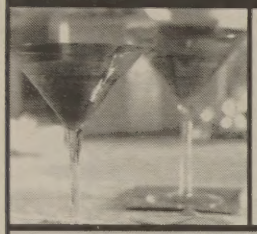

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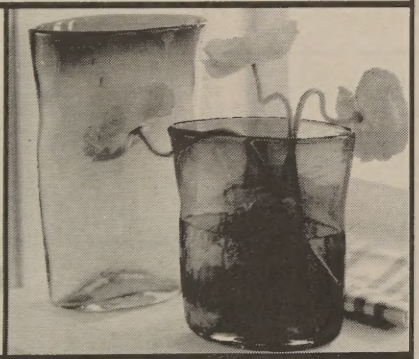

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SUNDAY NOV. 17

Theatre OUTlanta kicks off its new theater season with a preview party at My Sister's Room at 6 p.m. Players will act out one scene from each of the season's plays, with music and ticket give-aways in between the mini-performances. A $5 donation goes to production of the upcoming season. 404-371-0212 or www.mindspring.com/~outlanta

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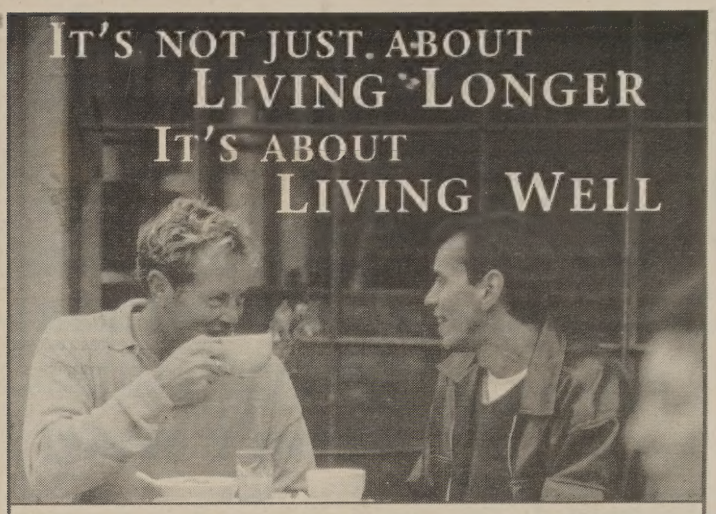
Anyone can be a drag queen at the Metro. To raise money for the Rainbow Home, the bar is putting on a **$1.98 Beauty Pageant**. Hosted by Glitterdome regular **Kristiva Diva**, the contest is open to individuals who will be judged based on audience response in presentation and talent categories. 404-874-9869

FRIDAY NOV. 22

You might recognize her from Charis Circle's recent Celebration of Women. Blues and jazz singer **Francine Reed** is making the rounds. This weekend she performs at the Blue Trout Restaurant for a $15 dinner show starting at 8 p.m. both nights. Reservations are suggested. 404-754-4909

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.



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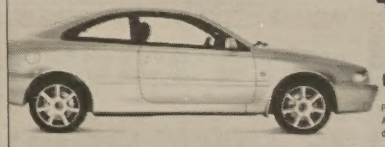

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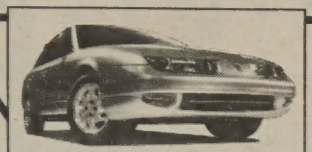

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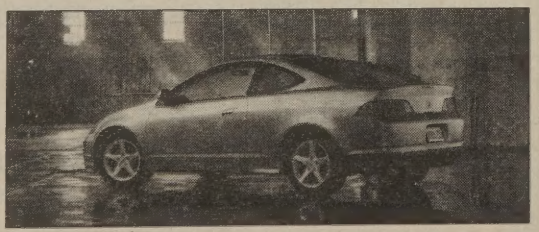

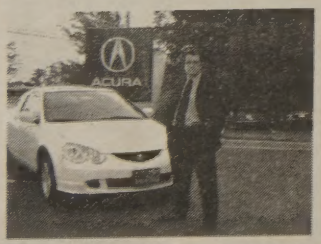

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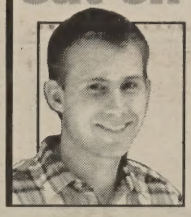

Young strummer **Mary Gauthier**, old-timey siren **Janet Metzger** light up the Atlanta scene with radically different styles.

Delightful and downtrodden

A HIDDEN PARISIAN MICROCOSM exists for people who liked Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary musical, and it is here in Atlanta on Ponce, subtly situated across the street from Disco Kroger with a big, honking Eiffel Tower jutting from the rooftop.

A bright orange antique shop by day, Paris on Ponce houses finery of yonder days.

But by night the shop closes, opening a portal into the bohemian Paris of the past at the building's rear parking lot entrance.

Proprietors George and Judi Lee of Paris on Ponce created what they consider to be the "perfect Parisian experience" in their Moulin Rouge listening salon, where some of the city's best jazz musicians croon the night away.

Decorated with exotic silk lanterns, posh seating and mannequins embodying jazz greats Josephine Baker and Piaf, the Moulin Rouge room whisks visitors away to a dark, smoke-filled corner of a Parisian cabaret — all except for the smoking part.

But this smoke-free bohemia can be yours for one night that includes local lesbian songbird Janet Metzger for only $20, including a delectable buffet of hors d'oeuvres prepared to enhance the sensual atmosphere.

Despite the Parisian setting, Metzger's repertoire pulls from the American Songbook, with selections by Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, and Rodgers and Hart, she said.

The audience should expect a few musical surprises, such as "Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise" — a little ditty of particular interest for anyone who has ever been to a ladies luncheon, she said.

For the most part, Metzger covers cabaret tunes from the '30s and '40s, accompanied by a quartet including Dan Furman on the grand piano, Bernard Linnette on drums, Jackie Pickett on bass, and Don Erdman on sax and clarinet.

All of Metzger's music falls under the performance's title, "Get Happy!"

IF THE SMOOTH, CHEERY STYLING OF cool-cat Metzger doesn't rate high enough on the gritty, guitar-strumming-lesbian scale, look no further than Mary Gauthier's performance at the Variety Playhouse on Nov. 22.

Gauthier (pronounced Go-shay) initially sounds like what you've come to expect from a lesbian with a guitar, very much in the k.d., Ani, and Melissa tradition. But what she lacks in ingenuity she makes up for in talent. Her sound is definitely more on the country and bluegrass side of the fence than many lesbian folk-rockers, and bluegrass is something Variety Playhouse lends itself to very well.

Lesbian-with-a-guitar **Mary Gauthier** continues her 10-day tour at the Variety Playhouse, opening for Guy Clarke on Nov. 22.

Ultimately, Gauthier's voice is beautiful in its sadness, if a little twangy at times.

For a woman who stole her parents' car twice to escape rural Thibodaux, La. and who spent her 16th birthday in rehab and her 18th birthday in a jail cell, Gauthier certainly knows her material when she sings about the darker side of life. While her initial forays out of her hometown were to find a place where she "fit in," Gauthier has come to expect that she never will

Instead, she chronicles the lives and stories of the downtrodden, depressed and dingy. On her latest CD, "Filth & Fire," she explores the denizens of a rent-by-the-hour motel and homeless people celebrating Christmas under a bridge in Florida.

The combination of subject matter, musicianship and a voice that is wrought with emotion shows that Gauthier certainly knows how to deliver a beautifully powerful punch. Most of her songs, even the Honky Tonk numbers, are very mellow, but listeners will relish the sadness and hope that Gauthier lends to the stories in her songs.

MORE INFO

Janet Metzger
'Get Happy!'
Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Paris on Ponce
716 Ponce de Leon Place
$20
404-249-9965

Mary Gauthier
Nov. 22, 8:30 p.m.
Variety Playhouse
1099 Euclid Ave.
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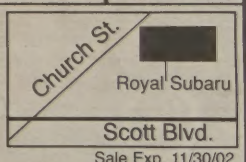

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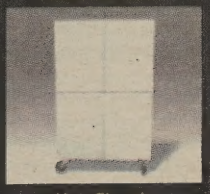

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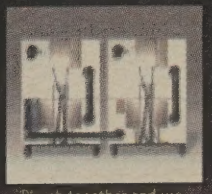

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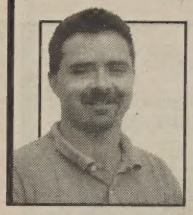

Revamped version of Broadway hit **'Aida'** offers **cast of talented voices** hitched to song styling from Elton John and Tim Rice.

Songs are 'Strongest Suit'

DESPITE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE taken place to the Disney musical "Aida" over the last four years, it's really not that far removed from the same show that debuted at the Alliance Theatre in 1998.

Yes, that much-maligned on stage pyramid has been deep-sixed, but it's still a so-so story redeemed by a terrific — and underrated — Elton John-Tim Rice score.

"Aida," part of the Atlanta Broadway Series Elton John double feature with "The Lion King" bowing in January, opens in a modern-day museum, where passersby look at exhibits.

One of the museum exhibits, the ancient Princess Amneris (Lisa Brescia), suddenly comes to life, twists around and launches into a song, "Every Story is a Love Story."

In a flashback, the musical tells of the tragic triangle between Aida (Paulette Ivory), a princess from Nubia who has been forcibly taken from her country; Radames (Jeremy Kushnier), a soldier who captures her; and Amneris, the pampered princess Radames is engaged to marry.

Radames initially makes the mistake of treating Aida as he does the other captives, but quickly discovers Aida is not a garden-variety slave. Somewhat taken by her opinionated nature and defiance, he enlists her to serve Amneris. He eventually finds out who this slave really is, and falls for the headstrong princess.

WHEN "AIDA" PREMIERED IN ATLANTA, it was called "Elaborate Lives," and had that ill-fated and pricey pyramid onstage that worked sporadically, sometimes stopping altogether, other times spewing oil across the stage. It also had Hank Stratton, who as Radames unfortunately had less personality than the pyramid.

But to its credit, "Elaborate Lives" struck gold with Heather Headley in the lead role, a performance that eventually won her a Tony. The show later went to Chicago (minus Stratton) for a second try-out before it landed on Broadway and became a commercial hit.

A number or two was abandoned from the original for the final version, and a few more have been added. The new productions, though, don't bring much heft. Mostly, they act as bridges between scenes. "Like Father Like Son," where Radames goes against the wishes of his dad, is a mess, a weak song marred by silly gyrating from the ensemble.

The most gifted person on this stage is Brescia, whose show-stopping number "My Strongest Suit" is every bit as vivid and funny as the original. Detailing the princess' love of fashion ("I would rather wear a barrel/Than conservative apparel/For dress has always been/My strongest suit"), the scene morphs into a fashion show where the other women of the palace cavort in the latest Egyptian wear.

As Princess Amneris, **Lisa Brescia** sings the role of the losing corner in a love triangle in 'Aida.' Her characterization is one of the show's strong suits.

It was a fine number in the previous Atlanta version, but is an absolute hoot now. But better yet, Brescia has real comedic flair, and her role is beefed up to give more dimension to the triangle.

IT'S UNFAIR TO COMPARE IVORY TO the exquisite Headley, but the actress is sufficient. She isn't nearly as believable in her emoting, but she does possess a suitable warrior streak. Her voice is the real reason she's in the show, and in number after number, she delivers.

As Ramades, Kushnier is a much blander presence, undermining the romance. But he knows how to belt out a lyric. His duet with Ivory, "Elaborate Lives," as they are facing execution, is undeniably poignant.

"Aida" will never be confused with an "A" list piece of theater, but its music alone makes this worth seeing. The bottom line is, if you liked "Aida" when it was here in Atlanta, you'll like this version as well. Matter of fact, you'll probably like it a bit more.

Next week, Synchronicity Performance Group tackles Chekhov's heavy drama "Three Sisters," as well as a new piece, "Anton Acts Out," based on Chekhov's time-honored play.

MORE INFO

'Aida'
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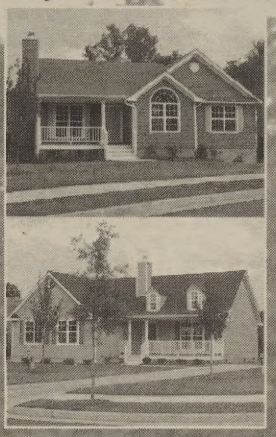

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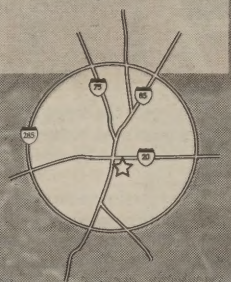

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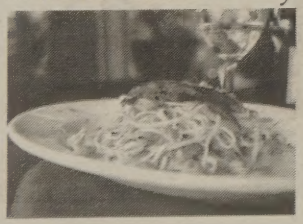

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Pulled pork pigging out

A FRIEND OF MINE WHO IS A classical musician thinks that WRFG, a community radio station, transgresses against nature by airing a blues program in the mornings. He insists that the blues is properly played only in the dark hours.

I don't know enough about music to have an opinion about that, but I'm glad I was listening to the show one recent morning, because that's where I first heard Raleigh's BBQ & Blues mentioned as an upcoming performance venue.

Raleigh's opened recently in a brick-walled storefront on Decatur's Court Square. Though there's some chicken and a burger on the menu, the fare is deeply rooted in the porky cuisine of the rural South.

I went for lunch — in broad daylight, risking the opprobrium of my opinionated friend. I took along somebody else, who has a more open mind.

On the whole, the cooking is "slap-yo-mama" good.

I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY were out of the starter called sweet tomato pie, a combination of Vidalia onions, cheese, tomatoes and basil. But I managed with Brunswick stew and a tamale.

The stew is good and surprisingly light — just about the only item on the menu that I can say that about. It's loaded with corn kernels, lima beans, slices of okra and chunks of pork in a tomato broth.

The "world famous" tamales are said to be the produce of Eugene Hicks of Clarksdale, Miss. They are small but mighty: greasy and meaty, smoky and piquant. Order them singly, in threes or as a plate with sides.

I tried the pork plate and rib plate. The pork, pulled off the bone in bite-size bits, is a bit dry and chewy. But it is greatly enhanced by the two house sauces. One, a thin vinegar sauce, helps a lot. The other, a thick, smoky red sauce with a nice sharp bite, is just what that pulled pork needs.

The ribs are stellar. They are well seasoned but not slathered in sauce, leaving that decision up to individual taste. They are so good, they don't need sauce at all — barely fatty, thick with tender, moist meat under a wonderfully charred, crusty surface.

EACH OF THESE PLATES COMES WITH a choice of two sides. For one of these, I chose to be totally, suicidally, politically incorrect and order cracklins.

This "side" turns out to be a big basket — like the ones filled with a mound of chips at a Mexican place — full of the deep-fried curls of fatty pork skin. Obscenely delicious.

Other sides at Raliegh's include grits, which are a fine example of the Southern favorite, coarse ground and thick. And another side of pinto beans are perfectly tender, in a sweet, smoky sauce.

The okra is a surprise because it isn't sliced, breaded and fried, as is typical. Raleigh's makes them whole, salted and grilled. I figured this was so healthy that I could chomp down on a few more cracklins.

Dishes of fresh chunky slaw with a light and slightly sweet dressing are served to everyone who sits down at Raliegh's. Of course, that good-for-us roughage meant even more pork skin was acceptable.

The menu actually invites diners to come for slaw and water, both of which are free. All anyone has to do for that treat is tell a few friends about the place.

Raleigh's is pleasant, though nothing special, to look at. But the food is a great bargain. As evidenced by my meal, two can make complete hogs of themselves for $28.

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Autumn's beautiful **yellows, oranges and reds** affected directly by weather and chemical content in each tree.

Chemical guide to fall foliage

The engaging colors of autumn bring throngs of spectators out for a gander at the changing leaves.

EVERY AUTUMN, DIMINISHING DAYlight hours and falling temperatures signal trees to prepare for winter, creating the colors of autumn that so many look forward to as the beginning of comfortable weather and the precursor to the holiday season.

In these preparations, the world's trees shed tons of leaves, especially in certain regions. The spectacular show of color that precedes the shedding fills the landscape with brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red. These color changes are the result of transformations in leaf pigments.

The green pigment in leaves is chlorophyll. Chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light from the sun, and the light reflected by the leaves is diminished in those colors and appears green.

Chlorophyll is not a very stable compound; bright sunlight causes it to decompose. To maintain the amount of chlorophyll in leaves, plants continuously synthesize it. The synthesis of chlorophyll in plants requires sunlight and warm temperatures. In hotter months, chlorophyll is continuously broken down and regenerated in the leaves of trees.

During summer, leaves are factories producing sugar from carbon dioxide and water by the action of light on chlorophyll. Chlorophyll causes the leaves to appear green. The leaves of some trees, such as birches and cottonwoods, also contain carotene; these leaves appear brighter green, because carotene absorbs blue-green light.

The world's trees drop tons of leaves each year in preparation for winter.

WATER AND NUTRIENTS FLOW FROM the roots, through the branches and into the leaves. The sugars produced by photosynthesis flow from the leaves to other parts of the tree, where some of the chemical energy is used for growth and some is stored.

Shortening days and cool nights of autumn trigger changes in the tree. One of these changes is the growth of a membrane between the branch and the leaf stem. This membrane interferes with the flow of nutrients into the leaf.

Because the nutrient flow is interrupted, the production of chlorophyll in the leaf declines, and the green color of the leaf fades.

If the leaf contains carotene, as do the leaves of birch and hickory, it will change from green to bright yellow as the chlorophyll disappears.

In some trees, as the concentration of sugar in the leaf increases, the sugar reacts to form anthocyanins. These pigments cause the yellowing leaves to turn red.

Red maples, red oaks and sumac produce anthocyanins in abundance and display the brightest reds and purples in the autumn landscape.

The range and intensity of autumn colors is greatly influenced by the weather. Low temperatures destroy chlorophyll, and if they stay above freezing, promote the formation of anthocyanins.

Bright sunshine also destroys chlorophyll and enhances anthocyanin production. Dry weather, by increasing sugar concentration in sap, also increases the amount of anthocyanin.

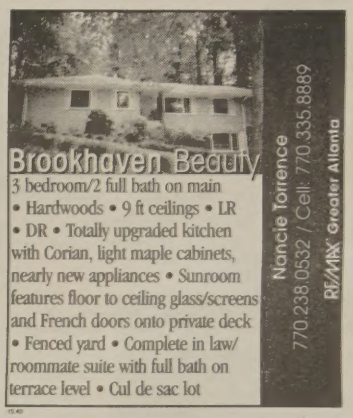
So the brightest autumn colors are produced when dry, sunny days are followed by cool, dry nights.

THERE'S EVEN A WEB SITE THAT provides accurate foliage information for various locations across the country Foliage Network collects data from foliage spotters twice a week during the months of September, October and November. That information is then posted on the Web site, www.foliagenetwork.com.

Tallulah Ranger District in Clayton is one location in Georgia to experience the color spectacle. Its trees consist mainly of blackgum, dogwood, maple and sourwood.

Peak viewing period is usually the fourth week in October through the first week of November. Other Georgia sites to view fall's effect on nature include Brasstown Ranger District in Blairsville, Toccoa Ranger District in Blue Ridge, Oconee Ranger District in Eatonton and Chattooga Ranger District in Clarksville.

REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY, **Page 54** RENTAL CLASSIFIEDS, **Page 61** HOUSES FOR SALE, **Page 62**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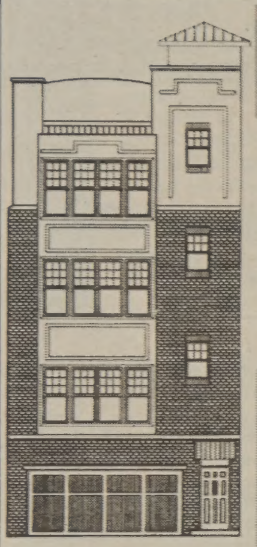

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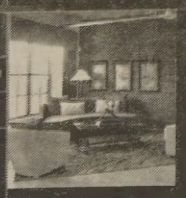

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Sexuality is too fluid to pigeonhole aging synth-pop star

SOFT CELL, continued from Page 33

es and represents the album.

"Monoculture" represents a theme that threads through the album. It is about the whole idea of globalization. People are loosing their identity. When you walk in every big city in the world, you see the same styles, the same stores. People listen to the same music on the same Walkman.

The lack of identity is part of a lot of themes on the album. It is like questioning yourself — "Am I hip, am I trendy?" The question is if you give in to it all or that you decide to retain your individuality. "Monoculture" sums it all up.

SoVo: You previously said that you have always felt like an outsider and that you are disgusted by the majority. Is the album a reflection of that state of mind?

Almond: I have never felt part of anything, quite honest. When I was younger, I was never part of the music business and the social scene. I never wanted to be a celebrity or buy into it.

Soft Cell in general has always been an oddity, and people still don't know what bag I am in. They are not able to pigeonhole me. I guess I am quite happy be an outsider.

SoVo: You have never been afraid to show off your sexuality or your fantasies. Did you intend to shock?

After nearly two decades of solo efforts, Soft Cell members **Marc Almond** (right) and **Dave Ball** reunite on 'Cruelty Without Beauty' and put their live show on the road next week in Atlanta.

Almond: In the beginning I was never an out person. I was never politically minded. I'd like to think, though, that I have done my share in breaking down sexual barriers.

It came naturally. I was rather subversive, which at that time was a shocker in Britain, which was very conservative. I truly experienced homophobia first-hand.

SoVo: Do you feel 100 percent gay, or are you just a very sexual person?

Almond: I am really a very sexual person. I've had experiences with both males and females. Don't call me bisexual though; that is kind of a cop-out. You meet people, and you are turned on by them in different ways. That is how it works for me.

SoVo: Do you think the music industry has become more tolerant over the last 20 years?

Almond: Yes. I think it has become more tolerant. Certainly in Britain, even though there is still a very conservative undertone.

People think it has become better, and they point to George Michael. The point of the matter is that George Michael's record sales have plummeted after he was caught in a public toilet.

Elton John is perhaps an exception. He is considered a national treasure more than anything else.

SoVo: Do you think gay artists compromise their identity for the sake of popularity?

Almond: No. Who am I to say that and judge? I have never been an out person either. I never wanted to be a spokesperson. I prefer to do it in my music.

SoVo: You never hid your own sexual escapades in the '80s, and you were very involved in building AIDS awareness later. How do you feel about the rise of HIV infections among certain groups?

Almond: I think that is the saddest of things. I think there is this myth, that because there is more medication, some people think there is a cure.

Young people are not very well educated about it, and as a result, they are becoming complacent. However, at the end of the day, people have to make their own choices. It is still two people that make sex unsafe.

If people choose to have bareback sex than that is their choice. You can't prevent people from having a choice.

SoVo: Are you a pessimist or an optimist?

Almond: I guess I am more a romantic cynic nowadays.

Ultimately, I am an optimist. I believe there is still beauty in the world. I am just a little jaded. I really am happy at the point of my life where I am right now. I haven't done any drugs in two years and feel good.

SoVo: So has life become boring?

Almond: No, life is very unboring now. Life was boring when I was drinking and taking drugs every day.

I wake up every day clear now, and I can experience new things. I have much more realistic expectations.

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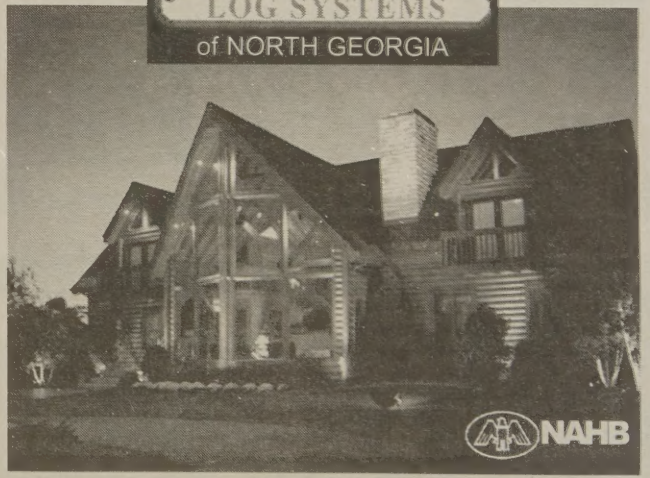

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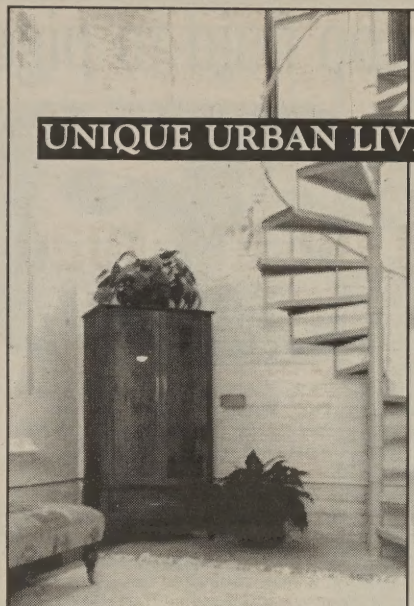

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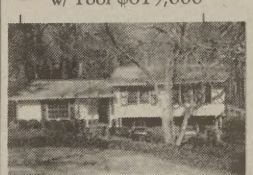

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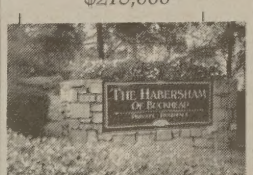

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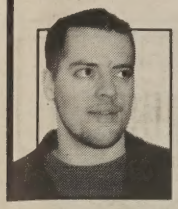

A few pointers help **business travelers** find **great gay hangouts** for after-work socializing in cities across the country.

Down time on the road

FOR SOME PEOPLE, A JOB IS SIMPLY a long prelude to a few hours of after-work socializing.

When at home, folks meet up with friends regularly at a favorite neighborhood bar or coffeehouse, where an after-work hangout serves as the perfect milieu for singles to mingle and everyone to shake off the stress of the day.

For travelers, finding the right place means a chance to mix with locals and find out about a city's queer scene after a day of business meetings.

Here's a sampling of cool hangouts that kick into high gear just as the workday draws to a close in a few cities where gay business travelers may find themselves.

The Abbey - West Hollywood, Calif.

Only a few coffeehouses have ever attained the social cachet of the most popular gay bars, but the Abbey is practically a West Hollywood institution.

Opulent terra-cotta statuary and gurgling fountains fill both the dapper dining room and the breezy patio. Such celebs as k.d. lang and Robert Downey Jr. have been spotted hoisting their coffee mugs at this playground of pretty people.

Amsterdams - Phoenix, Ariz.

As recently as five years ago, office workers in downtown Phoenix high-tailed it the minute their workday ended. But a bevy of new and renovated sports and performing-arts venues and museums has spurred a downtown renaissance, clearing the way for Amsterdams, a snazzy gay cocktail lounge, to become a favorite happy-hour bar.

The Cafe - San Francisco, Calif.

An exception to the rule that big dance clubs make lousy happy-hour hangs, the Cafe has long been the Castro's most happening gay club. Enter up a flight of stairs to a pair of festive bars.

Even before the sun sets, the tiny dance floor often draws several dozen hip-shakers. The best hobnobbing space is a wooden deck that's also a good spot to stargaze.

The Cedar Brook Cafe - Westport, Conn.

The upscale Connecticut suburb of Westport is the quintessential commuter town. Folks here regularly catch the train to and from New York City, Stamford and New Haven.

The town is also home to the Cedar Brook Cafe, a rambling space includes a dance floor, show bar and patio.

Club Cathode Ray - Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A fun-filled stalwart of Fort Lauderdale's gay social scene, Club Cathode Ray consists of three adjoining bars, a sports lounge with pool and darts, a cozy cocktail nook and a classic video bar with a small dance floor.

The location along posh Las Olas Boulevard, which buzzes with good restaurants, makes this a great choice before dinner.

Francesca's - Boston, Mass.

This small but inviting coffeehouse in Boston's courtly South End remains one of the neighborhood's favorite homo hangouts, even more popular after work than a lot of gay bars.

The tables in the center of the room are geared more to groups of friends who already know each other, but staking out one of the tall bar stools along the window-front counter can easily lead to a spontaneous tete-a-tete.

The Gentry - Chicago, Ill.

If you think the trading is heavy at the Commodities Exchange, check out the suits working each other at the Gentry, one of Chicago's few downtown gay bars.

Besides the main lounge, which hosts live piano cabaret, there's a video bar that's somewhat more conducive to chatting.

MORE INFO

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West Hollywood, CA
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Amsterdams
Phoenix, AZ
602-258-6122

The Café
San Francisco, CA
415-861-3846

Cedar Brook Café
Westport, CT
203-221-7GAY

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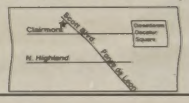

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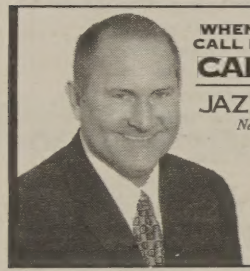

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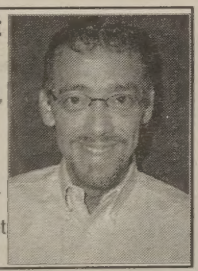

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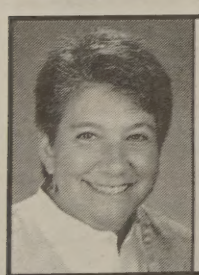

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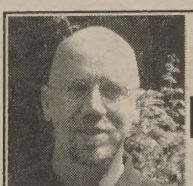

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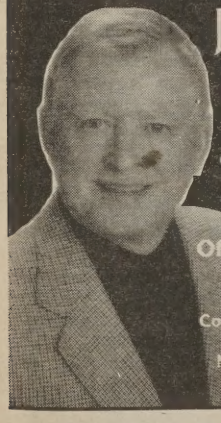

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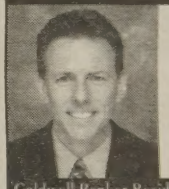

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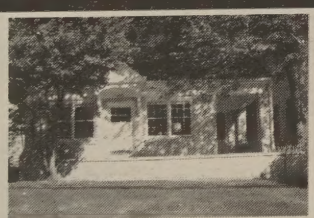

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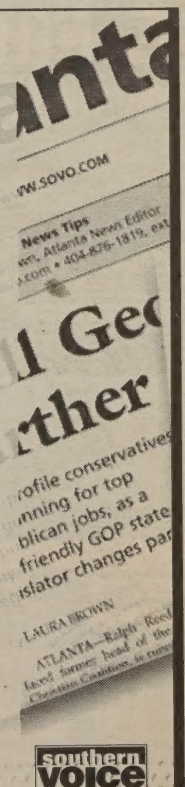

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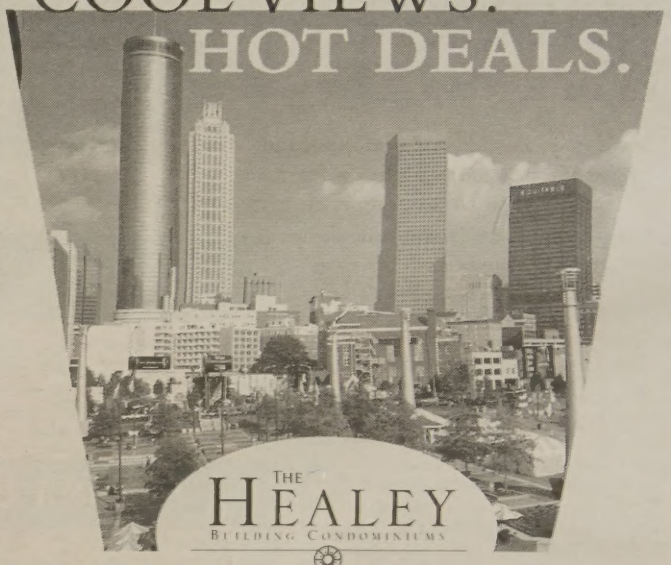

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Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC GUY
Handsome, romantic, laid-back GWM, 41, 6', 220lbs, HIV+, new to area, looking for friends, dating, relationship. Enjoy travel, outdoors, camping, cultural events, movies, cooking, spontaneous fun. Let's hang out. Athens. Winterville ☎6777

Been Glanced?

PHIPPS IN THE RAIN
10/28, parking lot at Phipps. You: wheelchair, blonde, amputee, beautiful smile. Me: crewcut, hard body, white shirt, jeans. We spoke. Started pouring rain, had to run. Call and let's talk. Atlanta ☎7014

OUTRIGHT BOOKS
I met Labor day, we did not exchange phone numbers, we exchanged glances, please respond if this is you. Athens ☎6939

COLOSSEUM
David, my name is Jamie. We met at Augusta Colosseum - you were on business. You called my sister but didn't leave message. Please call so I can get in touch. Thanks. ☎6661

MIDTOWN 9/29
You: cute blonde walking with two friends, me: red car, dark hair, followed you. You looked back several times, please call. Atlanta ☎6883

KEN THE BODYBUILDER
Received your voice mail response to my ad, but you didn't leave any way for me to contact you. Would love to talk. Please leave me your contact info! Atlanta ☎6248

ADAM
You had me at hello. You had me at goodbye. Will you please have me again? Atlanta ☎6841

EASYGOING GUY IN...
South Carolina. GWM, 40, 5'11", 155lbs, slender build, brow/blue-green, clean-cut, HIV+, enjoys travel, outdoors, photography, being at home, music, sports, more. Seeking quiet GW/HM, HIV+, for dating first, possible LTR. Goose Creek ☎7024

LET'S DANCE TOGETHER
Very attractive SWF, 46, 5'3", 95lbs, N/S, slender, dark auburn hair, green eyes, loves dancing, movies, travel. Seeking trim SWM, 40-50, 5'8"+. Stone Mountain ☎6895

CHRISTIAN BEAR
SWGM, 6'1", 240lbs, totally masculine football player from Alabama. Seeking slim to medium build white male, 20's - 30's, for serious Christian relationship. Serious inquiries only. Leave latest time to call. ☎6775

BLACK DAD NEEDED
GWM, 30, 5'9, 180 brown/blue, seeks HIV negative, well-built BM, 35-45, for friendship and dating. Atlanta ☎6750

HAND
SOME SWM SEEKS SAME
SWM, 36, 5'10", 168lbs, seeks similar SWM, for friendship or more. No disappointment here, looking for the same. Atlanta area. Macon ☎6714

SEEKS MR. RIGHT
SM, 6', 190lbs, brown/blue, average build, retired, big computer buff, interested in music. Looking for a quiet man for friendship, companionship, possibly more. Savannah ☎7023

ARE YOU THE ONE?
WM, 44, 5'8", 155lbs, brown/brown, muscular, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, gardening. Hoping to meet someone who has similar interests and qualities. Griffin ☎7026

YOUNG & SEARCHING
Male, 18, 5'8", 140lbs, gray-blue eyes, disease-free, college student, very outgoing, music lover, seeks an outgoing, nice man, for friendship, dating, and possibly more. Decatur ☎7001

HEART TO HEART
GWM, 40s, 6', attractive, masculine, romantic, professional, non-scene, in search of handsome, similar GWM for monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎6283

COULD THIS BE YOU?
GWM, 40, 6'3", 175lbs, D/D-free, N/S, not bar type, seeks same in WM, 30-45, H/W proportionate, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6317

HAPPY IN RED
This male, 6'1", nurse, loves making people happy, sewing, and watching sports. Seeking another homebody for serious relationship. Stone Mountain ☎6997

TOTAL TOP
GWM, 45, 6', 175lbs, blond/blue, muscular, stable, healthy HIV+, seeks same in Atlanta. I'm waiting! ☎6808

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎6976

SANE, SINGLE. SEXY
40-something, health-conscious, sharp with a good sense of humor, stable, and everything else that's good. Atlanta ☎6949

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, shy SBM, 21, 5'10", 165lbs, black/brown, loves amusement parks, reading, cuddling, photography, videos, shopping, movies. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing SWM, 18-30, for friendship, warm, loving LTR. Macon ☎5511

HOME-MAKER
GBM, late 30's Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves house-work, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeks average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎6810

MAN ABOUT THE SOUTHSIDE
Seeking Southside GW friend, 40-55, slim/average, for hanging out. Into sports, movies, the arts, nature, dining out. Not into bars, smoking, drugs, excess drinking. Let's hook up and have fun. Stockbridge ☎6812

PLAYFUL AND SERIOUS
Masculine, attractive, well-educated, in-shape, HIV- SWM, 51, 6'1", 175lbs, seeks similar/different friend, 30-50, to pursue a life of both body and mind, home and travel, quiet walks, and passionate talks. Atlanta ☎6927

AM I THE ONE?
GWM, 22, 5'10", black/brown, good-looking, nice, outgoing, seeks GM with similar qualities, for fun, dining out, shopping, possible LTR. Gracewood ☎6387

ATYPICAL LIFESTYLE
Loving, handsome GWM, 50, enjoys homelife, cooking, movies, dining out, pets. Seeking SHM, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6866

SERIOUS
GBM, 41, 6'2", 185lbs, slender build, reddish-brown complexion, seeks GBM for friendship, leading to LTR. Decatur ☎6851

STILL 48 (30S LOOKING)
Sexy, attractive BM, 5'7", 185lbs, masculine top, well-built, caring, passionate, loving, loves dancing, dining, and the arts. Seeking attractive black, Asian, Latin, white with flavor, masculine bottoms. No smokers/drugs/drama. Atlanta ☎6776

FREAK
Closeted male, 49, 6'1", 235lbs, salt-n-pepper/blue, mustache, loves pool, bowling, and hiking. Seeking a male, top, full of humor and honesty. Lithia Springs ☎6897

MASCULINE TOP 4 BOTTOM
WM, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/brown, mustache, 39, loves life, camping, nature. Seeking similar for soul mate. Try me. Fayetteville ☎6595

CARING MALE SEEKS SAME
College student, 19, 5'9", 155lbs, cropped blond/blue, of Irish descent, sociology major, no children or pets. Seeking laid-back, level-headed guy for casual dating, possibly more. Cartersville ☎6868

WANTED: REAL NICE GUY
GWM, slave to work, seeks really nice guy, 30-45, to unwind with. Into sports-watching, movies, dinner, etc. I'm 46, 5'9", 170lbs, D/D-free, N/S. You too! NW Metro a plus! Kennesaw ☎6843

MODERATION
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎5512

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

LOOKING FOR FUN
Male, 38, 5'9", 165lbs, short brown/hazel, moustache, goatee, medium build, is looking for attractive, masculine BM. Norcross ☎6828

ARE YOU HIM?
Handsome, masculine GWPM, 40, 5'10", 175lbs, top, HIV+, enjoys gardening, music, movies, dining, flea markets, weekend getaways, beaches, holding hands. Seeking slender GPM, 30-45, N/S, for dating, possibly more. Atlanta ☎6805

HOW ABOUT YOU?
BPM, 50, 5'10", 175lbs, 42" chest, 32" waste, 15" arms, enjoys exercise, dining in/dining out, quiet evenings. HIV positive, looking for goal oriented GM, any race for dating, N/S, N/D. ☎6632

CHARLOTTE MASCULINE BM
Masculine BM, 33, 6'2", 198lbs, medium/muscular, sense of humor, relocating soon. Seeking WM, 18-25, for fun times. Masculine a plus. Gastonia ☎6305

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You can place a FREE Personal ad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling our automated ad taking service. Or if you'd like help in crafting your personal, you can talk to our customer service reps Mon. through Fri. from 8:30am to 11pm and Sun. from 10 am to 6 pm. Then you'll record a FREE voice greeting in which you can talk a little bit about yourself and the person you'd like to meet. You can pick up your messages at your leisure and call anyone who interests you. The best part, it's all FREE.

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☐ Been Glanced ☐ Just Friends
☐ Bisexuals ☐ TV/TS

The following information is confidential and necessary to send out instructions you will need.

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City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail : _____

HEADLINE (25 characters) _____

AD COPY (30 words are FREE!) _____

Send to: SoVo Connections, P.O. Box 15592, Boston, MA 02215-5592
Or FAX us at: 1-800-397-4444

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1-900-226-6235
Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+
With your credit card, call
1-800-982-6829

LET'S BE TOGETHER
GWM, 41, 6'1", brown/hazel, attractive, down-to-earth, fun, funny, and shy, country boy with passion for city living. Seeking similar type. Atlanta ☎6747

LOOKING FOR LTR
Me: BiBM, 21, 5'9", toned build, light-skinned, bottom, masculine. You: cute, attractive, good body build, top, masculine. I enjoy anything fun and love to try new things. Decatur ☎7012

SEEKING SENIOR MAN
Tall, trim, good-looking, 42-year-old WM in search of a senior (60+) gentleman for a LTR. Atlanta ☎6872

SHARE OUT LIVES TOGETHER
Energetic WM, 44, 5'10", 170lbs, enjoys the outdoors, theater, intelligent, conversation, romance, laugher and adventure. Seeking 35-50, for dating. Atlanta ☎6842

Women Seeking Women

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎6870

LONELY MOM
GBF, 30, 5'7", great laugh, likes reading, going to movies, going out and enjoying life. Seeking fun-loving, adventurous GBF for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6950

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

2 GOOD 2 B LOOKING 4 LOVE
42-year-old BF, independent, healthy, and open-minded, forgot how to look for a date so call before x-mas. Atlanta ☎7044

BEAUTY SEEKING BEAUTY
SF, 5'3", 150lbs, black/brown, vegetarian, enjoys spending time with my two sons, watching sports, reading, being active. Seeking a woman for casual dating that may grow into something strong. Smyrna ☎6952

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GWF, 27, 130lbs, brown/brown, cute, seeks very cute, athletic, feminine female to enjoy the outdoors and life. Thomasville ☎6937

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT..
GBF, in search of a mate, someone honest, sincere and available to date, with a charming spirit, integrity and personality. No drama or issues and secure in her sexuality. Decatur ☎7013

SOON 2B DOCTOR
GWF, 43, attractive, funny, seeks femme for friendship/possibly more. Not into bar scene, smoking, drinking, drugs. Great sense of humor, loves cuddling. Down-to-earth, outgoing. Love pets, be allergic to cats. Suwanee ☎6966

I'M AVAILABLE
SF, 5'2", very cute soft stud, loves traveling, movies, plays, theater, having a good time. Looking for a woman who is adventurous for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6954

SOMEONE JUST FOR ME
BPF seeks beautiful soft butch, 35+, N/Drugs, N/S, mentally/spiritually/financially centered. Character is important. Race is not. Stone Mountain ☎6638

NO GAMES, JUST SINCERITY
Soft, butch GWF, 35, seeks LTR with a kindred spirit, a special woman, 30+, who likes scary movies, sushi. Must believe that romance never ends, and cuddling springs eternal. Decator Atlanta ☎5901

FLORIDA WOMAN SEEKS LOVE
SWPF, 50s, enjoys beaches, mountains, outdoors, candlelight dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeks same, must be feminine and attractive. Clearwater ☎6953

BROWN SUGAR
41, black female, smoker, College Park, very romantic, soft butch. Where are you ladies? Race unimportant. ☎6719

GWF ISO N/S GWF FEMME
Me: 40, blonde/blue, outgoing, kind, strong and loving. In search of non-smoking femme, for friendship first. No drama please. Lets have fun and see what happens! Travel, wine, music, fun! Atlanta ☎6811

Start now by placing an ad. Call
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SEEKING SOMEONE TO LOVE
BBW GF, 32, HIV+, romantic, laid-back, seeks same in GF, for mutual admiration and love. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎6865

QUALITY NOT QUANTITY
Feminine GWPF, 32, seeks honest, outgoing, laid-back GWF. For clubs, movies and laughs. Friendship first possible LTR. Tucker ☎6840

SEEKING MISS RIGHT
SF, 35, 4'11", 100lbs, dark/green, likes watching football, quiet evenings at home. Seeking a female who shares my interests. Committed relationship. ☎6830

BRIGHT EYES
Honest GF, late-30s, very social, enjoys movies, dining out, family, travel and more. Seeking sincere, sweet, kind, feminine GF, for friendship, possible LTR. Smithville ☎6938

SEEKING THE RIGHT LADY
Female, 5'7", 175lbs, seeks a woman who wants to love and be loved and who feels as strongly about a serious relationship as I do. Covington ☎6773

WORTH A TRY
SWF, 43, graying/blue, soft butch, seeks same. Are you 35-50, stable, drug-free, N/S, can you make me laugh, make me think? I'm sincere are you? Its worth a try. Jonesboro ☎6873

MARTINI NIGHTS
GWPF in 40s, attractive, intelligent, fun, good sense of humor, N/S. Enjoys outdoors, arts, ballet, parks, festivals, traveling. Seeking feminine N/S, GWPF, 30-48. Social drinkers OK. Vinings ☎6802

NEW TO ATLANTA
GWPF, 40, 5'6", 135lbs, brown/brown, feminine, cute, and tom boyish, with varied interests, desires friendship/relationship with woman who is fit, educated, addition free, feminine/tom boyish, with many interests. Atlanta area. Decatur ☎6692

AFRICAN/AMERICAN QUEEN
Feminine GBF, 48, seeks aggressive, 100% lesbian, who is sincere, for dating first. Let's explore our horizons. No Bi's or Femmes please. Smyrna ☎6900

WANTING SOMEONE REAL
Female, 23, 5'1", 110lbs, layered auburn hair, in nursing school, loves all things sports and all things artistic. Seeking a woman with similar tastes. Forest Park ☎6910

LOVE ME TENDER
GWF, 38, 5'4", brown/brown, warm, loving, caring, enjoys camping, fishing, walks in the park, art, beaches, dining. Seeking same in GF, age unimportant. No drugs or disease. ☎6829

LOOK HERE
GWPF, 49+1, serious about enjoying life, love to travel emotionally, spiritually, and by plane, attractive, stable, athletic, fit, vegetarian, who is solvent, chem free. Seeking friends first. Pine Lake ☎6566

A NEW BEGINNING
SWPF, 43, 5'6", 135lbs, brown/blue, with keen sense of humor, master's degree in psychology, and 4 cats, loves golfing and beaches. Seeking honest lady. Rockmart ☎6761

FALL FOR ME THIS FALL!
GWF, 42, 5'2", 135lbs, feminine, pretty, and unique, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, exercise, working out, *tanning at the beach. Seeking GWF, responsible*, mature, sweet, and honest, for companionship, possibly more. Tucker ☎7042

Just Friends

FRIENDLY FOLK SEEK SAME
GM couple, 50s, is seeking other gays and/or couples in NW GA area for friendship and social activities. Plainville ☎6965

CENTRAL GWINNETT
GWM, couple, mid-30s and mid-40s, seeks down-to-earth, non-pretentious GWM and GFs for platonic friendship. N/S and no drugs. Not into bars. ☎6479

NEW TO ATLANTA
GWF, 28, femme, seeks similar for friendship only. I enjoy movies and dining out. No smokers or heavy drinkers. Smyrna ☎6759

Bisexuals

BEAR MATE WANTED
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎6597

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Guidelines: Southern Voice personals are for adults 18 or over seeking long-term monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should always occur in a public place. Abbreviations are permitted only to indicate gender preference, race, and religion. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocations. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. This publication reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases, to reject in its sole discretion any advertisement on account of its text. An advertiser's print ad may be renewed on the date thecorresponding voice greeting box expires or thereafter. This publication assumes no responsibility for the content or reply to any Southern Voice ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message, and for all claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold this publication, its employees and its agents harmless from all costs, expenses, (including reasonable attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Southern Voice, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name, or address in his/her voice greeting. Not all boxes contain voice greetings.

classifieds

Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

Occasions

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge in its classifieds section. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone.

birthdays

"Happy birthday on Nov. 11 to Drewbob! Maybe you'll catch up to me soon! All my love always, Billiam."

Happy birthday to "Ethan Green" cartoonist Eric Orner on Nov. 15.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its members Dennis R. Nance (Tenor II) on Nov. 16 and Bruce Hall (Baritone) on Nov. 18.

Happy birthday to Southern Voice Editor Matt Hennie on Nov. 17.

Happy birthday to Black & White Together members Deryl B. on Nov. 17, Michael and David R. on Nov. 18, DeWayne H. on Nov. 19 and George L. on Nov. 21.

anniversaries

"To Donna: Thank you for the best five years of my life. Love, Laura."

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

FREE HIV TESTING - Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm @ YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. in Decatur. 404-378-6620 for more information, or www.youthpride.org

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

Our Common Welfare will provide Free HIV testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests; daily from 9am-7pm earlier by appt. & Saturday 9am-1pm. Offices are located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H, Decatur, [next to Dekalb Co. jail]. Call for details: 404-296-3090.

Announcements

St. Michael the Defender

A Parish of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America. Sunday Mass 10:00am at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Across from the Civic Center, free parking!

Father Patrick W. Batuyong, Pastor.
www.stmichaelatlanta.org
"ALL ARE WELCOME"
404-627-7212.

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society will hold its 12th Run for Justice on the Atlanta campus of Mercer University on Nov. 23. The event features a 5-k run & 1-mile walk & benefits the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. All participants receive a colorful long-sleeve t-shirt. Registration is $20 in advance & $25 after Nov. 16. The race begins at 9:00 with a special 8:45 warm-up provided by Sonz Fitness. The walk begins at 8:30. Register online at www.active.com or www.rungeorgia.com. Call 404-614-3922 or 404-324-7738 for more info.

Council President Cathy Woolard announces her 2002 Christmas Campaign for the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home. Details at cathyatlanta.com or 404-330-6035.

A COMMON BOND is a social group for gay, former &/or current JW's, offering friendship and an understanding environment. For details about the next gathering of the Atlanta Chapter - 770-493-3188 or e-mail: micek38@yahoo.com

WRITER LOOKING FOR STORIES of local heroes/people who have made a difference to another individual, their city or their community. Contact Paul Dunn; 3030 McKinney Ave.; Dallas, TX, 75204 or contact me via email: PD200@aol.com

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit - offers free legal services to low-income persons living with life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer and ALS; with a wide range of legal problems - employment discrimination, public benefits, debt relief, insurance, access to health care, housing, family issues, and simple wills and advance directives. Income guidelines do apply. We DO NOT offer legal services for criminal matters. Please call 404-614-3969 for more information.

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

MEDITATION

Free classes to be taught offering meditation in the style of P. Yoganada and Roy Eugene Davis by a student of 30 years training. In Buckhead. Please call Ken Payne 404-237-6507. NO CHARGE EVER.

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Gym in Decatur seeking customer oriented front desk personnel to aid in membership check-in, sales & club management. Hourly + commission. Contact Jason at 404-687-0027 or email resume to: Jason@corebody.net

Rapidly Growing Courier Co.

Great income driving for Gay-owned Courier Company. Full/Part time, flexible hours. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan 404-627-8011.

Remodeling Contractor Seeks Assistant. Experience Necessary. Must Have Own Transportation. Leave Message at 678-290-4740.

Professional Hair Stylists Wanted for Funky Salon in West End. If You're Experienced Call 404-822-3180.

Chauffeurs Needed Full Time For A Midtown Limousine Service. You Need An Excellent Driving Record. Drug Screens & Criminal Background Checks Are Required. You Must Be Able To Handle A Heavy Volume & Have A Flexible Nature. Call Steve 404-733-6709.

Holiday Drivers Needed

NEED SUV's, TRUCKS W/COVERS, VANS needed for Holiday Delivery. Make great money working just one day. Knowledge of city helpful. Call Dan: 404-627-8011.

The Gay Pages, Inc. is hiring Appointment Setters. No Selling. Fun atmosphere. $300-$500 week. Hourly + commission + daily cash bonuses. Midtown Location. Call Tom at 404-892-6454 ext. 221.

Employment • Part

HOUSEKEEPER

Professional couple, Buckhead location, seeks housekeeper 2-3 days weekly, (+/-15 hours $10.00 HR). Responsibilities include housecleaning, laundry, light ironing, errands. Must have car, personal references, stable & dependable nature, experience preferred. Ideal for grad/professional student. Leave message 404-237-2990 for Bill. For questions or brief job description, direct request to: billw@titlelaw.com or fax to 404-233-5187.

Creative People Wanted for Help with Holiday Decorating - Use Your Creativity to Make Extra Cash! Flexible Scheduling. Call 404-881-0809.

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For Sale

HOT TUB: 80x80 Excellent Condition! $500. KING-SIZE WATERBED: 6-Drawer Wood Frame, Headboard, Heater, Padded Sides, Waterbed Sheets, $250. Call: 404-636-7749.

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LENOX/CHESHIRE BRIDGE * 1984 Wellbourne Drive. 800SqFt. 1BR/1BA, Hardwood Floors, Renovated, Living Room, Breakfast Room. $650/mo. No Deposit. Frank 678-886-2281.

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DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment–Seeking
___ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
___ Autos
___ Business
___ Employment–Full Time
___ Employment–Part Time
___ Finance
___ Health
___ Legal
___ Massage Therapy
___ Merchandise
___ Pets–For Sale, Training
___ Publications
___ Real Estate–For Rent
___ Real Estate–For Sale
___ Travel

Call 404-876-1819 ext. 15 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

BUSINESS RATE ADS
Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State_____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Check Enclosed ____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA
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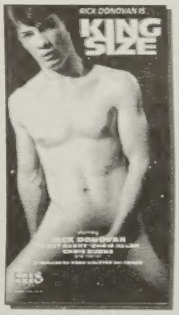

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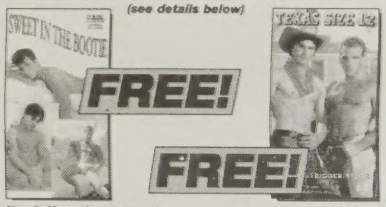

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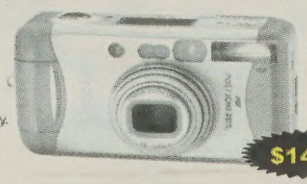

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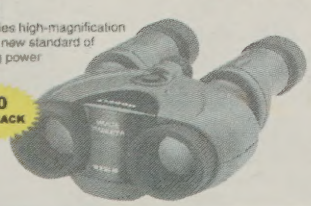

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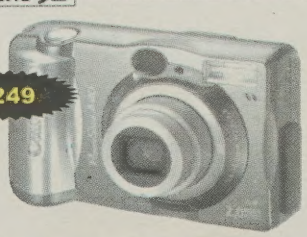

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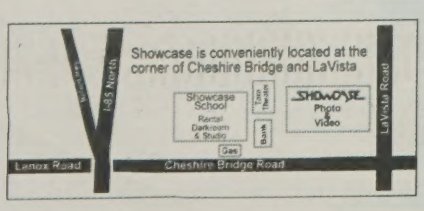

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Unapologetic critic

Gay writer Dan Savage skips toward Gomorrah in new book.

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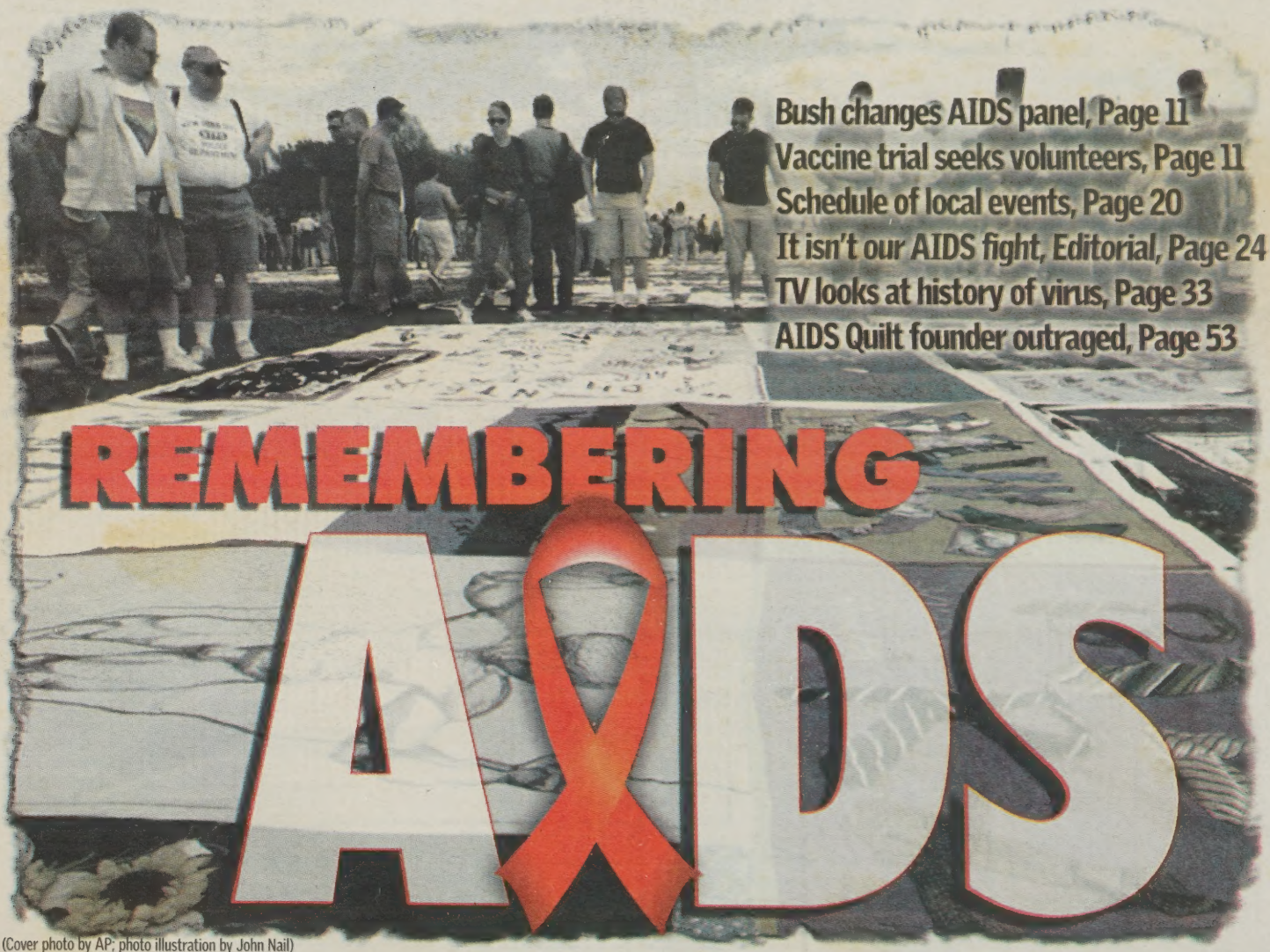
Local events mark World AIDS Day



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REMEMBERING AIDS

(Cover photo by AP; photo illustration by John Nail)

UNDER SCRUTINY: Some gays take aim at Morehouse President Walter Massey over diversity panel. **Page 7**

QUEER TV: Despite delays, gay channel may debut early next year. **Page 15**

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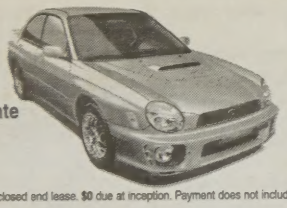

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local news

Black colleges lag in gay student support

Recent incidents at Morehouse, Howard raise concern for climate

By RHONDA SMITH

As officials at historically black colleges here and in Washington, D.C., scramble to respond to reports of anti-gay attacks on students, administrators at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., are working on a sweeping plan to include gay and lesbian students in all aspects of campus life.

"The challenge was creating a conscious initiative," said Patrick Day, an assistant vice president and dean of students at Smith, an historically black four-year college with 1,600 students in southwestern North Carolina.

"We've had people in Residence Life and in other critical areas on campus dealing with these issues for some time. It wasn't an issue where no one was doing anything," he said. "The real challenge for us was to deal with these issues in a more comprehensive fashion."

Some predominantly white colleges and universities advertise that they offer a supportive atmosphere for gay students, ranging from gay student centers to academic programs in gay and lesbian studies.

This is not the case, however, at the majority of the more than 100 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) nationwide.

"Very few HBCUs have formed gay student groups on their campuses," said Brandon Braud, who is working on a pilot project at the Human Rights Campaign that offers to help historically black colleges develop initiatives to assist gay students. "One of the biggest challenges we're facing today is that there is very little sensitivity or awareness about dealing with this particular issue."

Earlier this year, Donna Payne, HRC's constituent field organizer, suggested that the nation's largest gay political organization launch the HBCU Outreach Pilot Project "so black gay students understand they are not alone."

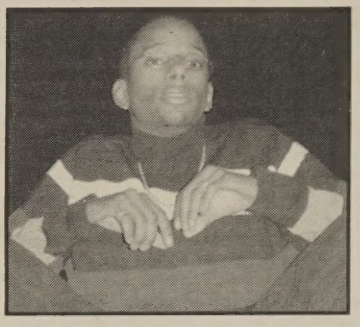
HRC's pilot project involves Payne and Braud traveling nationwide to historically black college campuses to co-sponsor gay-related forums for students, school administrators and gay civil rights organizers in local communities.

Payne said administrators at many historically black colleges and universities appear reluctant to address the issue in part because they are rarely approached often on the matter.

"There's been a silence — and it's a silence on both sides," she said. "Students have not said who they are, and they have not wanted to address being gay on campus. And administrators have not wanted to deal with it."

Day, at Johnson C. Smith University, echoed Payne.

"In some ways, these conversations — as comprehensive conversations — are relatively new in black communities and on historically black college campuses," he said. "Generally, they are not so new on predominantly white campuses."



'Tonight is the last night I will put up with threats on my life because I am gay,' wrote **Jonathan Perry** in an e-mail to administrators at Johnson C. Smith University, after he was verbally threatened.

Neither Morehouse College, an all-male school in Atlanta, nor Howard University in Washington, D.C., is completely ignoring the needs of gay and lesbian students.

Both institutions, which are considered two of the most prestigious historically black institutions in the nation, have adopted equal employment opportunity policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, among other initiatives.

But gay civil rights organizers and students said administrators at Howard and Morehouse tend to react to concerns from gay students after problems crop up, rather than taking pro-active steps that might prevent them from occurring.

That shouldn't be the case, according to Alvan Quamina, executive director of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum.

"Students must be allowed to discuss some of the pressing issues related to diversity, multiculturalism and inclusivity in settings which encourage free exchanges of ideas without fear or harm," said Quamina, who sent a letter Nov. 15 requesting a meeting with the president of Morehouse.

"Historically black colleges and universities have a long history of being such places," he said.

Anti-gay attacks at Howard, Morehouse

The history of openness Quamina praises may not always apply to gay issues.

"We do not really have an open dialogue," said Sterling Washington, president of the Bisexual, Lesbian & Gay Organization of Students at Howard. "[University officials] are doing things, but they're not in contact with us."

J.J. Pryor, a spokesperson at Howard, disagreed.

"My observation is that school officials are working with the students," she said, noting that Howard's campus security force recently took part in training sessions related to addressing the needs of gay students.

"Howard is making a concerted effort to work with the gay and lesbian population on campus," she said.

Washington and gay student group member Lynval Gray met in September with Pryor; H. Patrick Swygert, Howard's president and Raymond Archer, the school's vice provost, to discuss issues of concern to gay students there.

The meeting included a conversation about allegations that members of the school's marching band assaulted a gay student, Darryl Payton, and one of his instructors, Luqman Selim, on Sept. 3 while shouting anti-gay slurs in the basement of the school's Fine Arts building.

"To categorize that as a gay issue may not necessarily be true," Pryor said last week. She also said this matter has been resolved but that she could not provide specific details about how.

Washington said Archer recently told him law enforcement officials did not have enough evidence to charge the students allegedly involved in the assault. In addition, Archer said there did not seem to be probable cause.

"He has been working with us on various issues," Washington said of Archer, "but not as much as we'd like."

At Morehouse College in Atlanta, the Nov. 3 attack that began with a glance in a dormitory shower sent one student to the hospital with a fractured skull, another to jail and prompted charges of widespread homophobia at the school.

The student, Gregory Love, who was assaulted with a baseball bat, denies he is gay and told police he did not have glasses on when he went to take a shower and looked at another person, thinking it was his roommate.

Morehouse sophomore Aaron Price was arrested the next day and charged with aggravated assault. Last week, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said Price would also face hate crime charges. (See related story, Page 7)

Morehouse officials expelled Price for the attack, but this did not quell criticism about how the school handled the matter.

Craig Washington, executive director of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, said he placed several calls to Morehouse officials after the incident but none have been returned.

Washington, who has conducted HIV-prevention training on Morehouse's campus for students, said he called "to send a clear message that anti-gay hatred and violence is not acceptable and that I was willing to offer my assistance."

Massey said in a written statement Nov. 15 that Morehouse officials appreciated the gay and human rights organizations that reached out with offers to help plan more aggressive programming to address gay issues.

"We will engage them as appropriate," he said.

When Massey announced Nov. 20 the

Please see COLLEGES on Page 6

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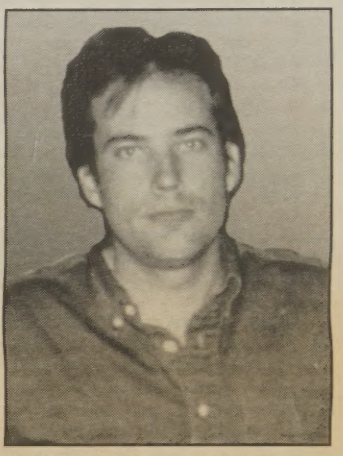
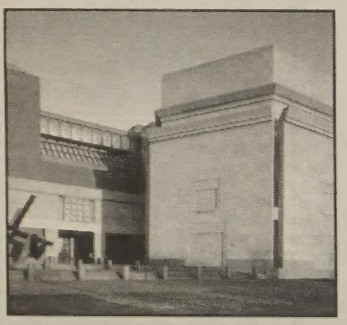


WANTED: Investigators are asking for help in locating **Eric Rudolph** — the man charged with Atlanta bombings more than five years ago that included the Otherside, a local gay bar. **Page 8**

QUEER TV: The race for the nation's first gay-all-day television station heats up as Viacom forges ahead with its plans while Canada's PrideVision hits a financial stumbling block. **Page 15**



GAY HOLOCAUST: The Holocaust Museum in the nation's capital hosts a special exhibit focusing on gay persecution in the Third Reich. **Page 49**

local news

Lawsuit ends over HIV care at Fulton Jail

DeKalb case continues under contempt order, though sheriff says improvements made

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Shoob ordered the end of a three-year-old class action lawsuit filed by HIV-positive inmates over poor medical care at the Fulton County Jail.

But a similar lawsuit remains pending in neighboring DeKalb County, where "serious problems" continue, according to Tamara Serwer, an attorney with the nonprofit Southern Center for Human Rights, which represents inmates in both cases.

Both Fulton County officials and SCHR agreed to Shoob's Nov. 13 order to terminate the case, after the county promised to continue outside monitoring of jail health care for 18 months.

Fulton County Attorney O.V. Brantley said county officials are "ecstatic" at the outcome.

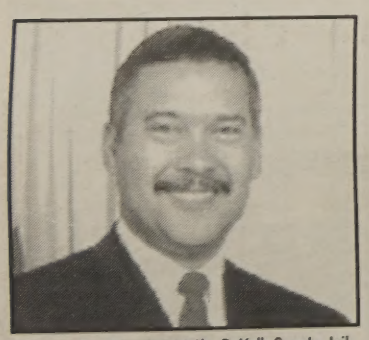
"I'm exceptionally proud because the plaintiff in the case agreed that the case should end, and it is very rare that plaintiffs and defendants can get to the point of agreeing that a goal has been accomplished," Brantley said.

Serwer said medical care at the Fulton Jail "had improved quite dramatically since the case started."

"Instead of basically fighting the county in the court of appeals if the court didn't grant termination, it makes more sense to keep working to improve the conditions at the jail than to keep arguing about it," Serwer said.

Fulton County Sheriff Jackie Barrett, whose department is charged with overseeing the jail, could not be reached for comment by press time.

In a Nov. 12 "memorandum of understanding" sent to Serwer, the sheriff noted that health care for HIV-positive inmates in Fulton County has "improved substantially" since the plaintiffs and the jail entered into a final settlement agreement in January 2000 and pledged "in good faith to maintain the progress."



Although litigation against the DeKalb County Jail continues, DeKalb Sheriff Thomas Brown said the state's largest jail is 'beginning to see the light of day in the improvement of inmate health care.'

A lawsuit filed by HIV-positive inmates against the Fulton County Jail ended with 'victory' for both sides, according to Tamara Serwer, an attorney with the Southern Center for Human Rights who represented the plaintiffs.

To "sustain the improvement" in healthcare "without the active involvement" of the court, Barrett said she would hire Dr. Robert Greifinger — an expert appointed by the court to monitor the jail — to serve as a "correctional medical consultant" for the next 18 months.

Greifinger will visit the jail every six months, with his first visit in May 2003, the letter said. He will also be notified of any inmate deaths within 48 hours. After each visit to the jail, Greifinger will conduct "exit meetings" that will include attorneys from the Southern Center for Human Rights.

In addition, Greifinger will prepare written reports for the county and the SCHR, and the county will consult him when seeking health care vendors for the jail, the sheriff said.

Ruben Foster and other Fulton County inmates filed suit in U.S. District Court in April 1999, alleging that the jail mistreated HIV-positive inmates so seriously that it endangered both their lives and the public health.

The suit charged that health care providers at the jail "act with deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of HIV infected inmates" by failing to follow minimum standards of HIV care established by the national Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

"As a result, people charged with even minor offenses, and even those who are innocent, may be condemned to a death sentence as a result of the grossly inadequate medical care at the jail," the suit said.

This week, Serwer called the outcome of the case "a huge victory," noting that "the challenge is to keep the improvement without having to go back to court."

"The very fact that the treatment improved as much as it did — not to say that it is perfect — is what we wanted. That was the whole point of the lawsuit to begin with," she said. "The fact that we have come to a place where there has been almost a cultural shift on attention to HIV in the jail is something we feel very proud of."

Brantley said she doesn't think future litigation will be needed to ensure continued improvements in health care at the jail.

"I think we have established excellent medical care and excellent procedures for follow up in that area, and I don't see that changing," she said.

DeKalb County jail remains in contempt

A similar lawsuit filed by HIV-positive inmates at the DeKalb County Jail continues, without as much progress as the Fulton jail, Serwer said.

HIV-positive inmates filed the case against the state's largest jail in August 1999. In March 2001, DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Hilton Fuller approved a final settlement agreement mandating a series of improvements at the DeKalb jail and monitoring by Greifinger.

But within just a few months, health care at the jail became so "dangerously bad" that the plaintiffs asked Fuller to find the county in contempt of the settlement agreement, Serwer said.

In November 2001, Fuller held the jail in both civil and criminal contempt, requiring Greifinger to make bimonthly visits to the jail to check progress on staff training, prescription refills and medical treatments.

This fall, county attorneys argued that the jail should no longer be bound by the contempt order because the 18-month time frame for the judge's original March 2001 settlement agreement ran out, Serwer said.

On Nov. 1, Fuller ruled that the county remains in contempt and must continue to allow Greifinger to visit the jail.

"The new health care provider at the jail is certainly better than the one right before, and the one before that, but there are still serious problems, and HIV care has always been a problem in DeKalb," Serwer said.

County attorneys could not be reached for comment.

DeKalb Sheriff's Department spokesperson Mikki Jones declined comment on the case, noting that the decision to challenge the contempt order came from the county attorney's office, not the sheriff's department.

Asked to comment on the current state of health care at the jail, Jones said the most recent monitoring report at the jail "speaks for itself."

The Sept. 23 report found "laudable" improvements at the jail, while noting that the county is "still not close to compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement," Jones said.

The same day, DeKalb County Sheriff Thomas Brown issued a public statement responding to a column by Cynthia Tucker in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that questioned the need for DeKalb County to continue to have a sheriff's department.

"I am pleased with the progress of reforms in the Sheriff's Office," Brown said. "We are beginning to see the light of day in the improvement of inmate health care."

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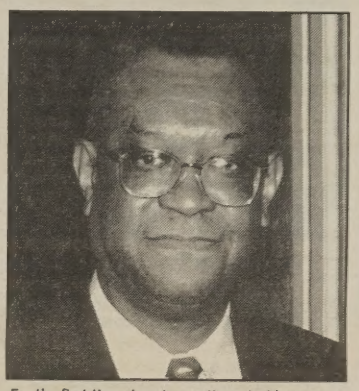
local news

DeKalb County schools chief outlines diversity training

State legislator threatens reprimand in wake of anti-gay speaker

By JENNIFER J. SMITH



For the first time since two anti-gay incidents at DeKalb County schools, Superintendent **Johnny Brown** spoke out this week on plans for diversity education. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Speaking out for the first time on plans to train DeKalb County teachers and staff on diversity issues including sexual orientation, School Superintendent Johnny Brown announced this week a program that could address recent questions about anti-gay actions in the school system.

"I'm sure all concerned will be pleased to know we had already begun discussions about such training, I have directed the staff to organize opportunities for us," Brown said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Details surrounding how and when the training would be conducted were not immediately available, he said.

The school district already has diversity training planned through a July 1, 2002, transition plan, Brown said. Some 38 current DeKalb County staff members are trained by the Anti-Defamation League to conduct diversity workshops for faculty and staff, "and that's something we've already set into motion," he said.

Gay issues came into sharp focus for DeKalb County schools after two anti-gay incidents occurred at two public high schools within two weeks earlier this fall.

On Sept. 25, male students at Stone Mountain High School attended an assembly featuring speaker Danny Buggs, a former football player now drawing a $74,200 salary on the staff of the DeKalb school system.

"It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. I hope there are no faggots in here," Buggs reportedly told students.

Two weeks later, on Oct. 10, the principal at Lakeside High School removed signs hung by the school's Gay Straight Alliance celebrating National Coming Out Day, only to rehang them later the same day.

In the wake of the incidents, groups including the ACLU and Enlight Atlanta said they offered free diversity workshops on sexual orientation issues to the county, but they have not been contacted to provide them.

Dr. Abbe Boring, the county's academic officer, and Dr. Marcia Tate, director of staff development, "will be dealing with the Anti-Defamation League and others who have offered help," Brown said this week.

State Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state lawmaker, took Brown and the DeKalb County School Board to task at an annual legislative caucus meeting Nov. 21.

"We're supposed to be the most progressive county in the state. We should be a leader on these issues," Drenner said. "It's hate and bias and it's going unanswered right now."

Drenner warned that if the school system did not enact a diversity measure by the beginning of the legislative session in January, she would ask the General Assembly to pass a resolution condemning the problem and the board's lack of action.

Brown declined comment on whether the county's program might meet Drenner's request.

"I think we're all after the same thing, so I won't address one person's opinions or comments," he said.

Flanked at the caucus meeting by state Sen. Gloria Butler and state Reps. Kathy Ashe, Pat Gardner and Mary Margaret Oliver, all Democrats representing parts of DeKalb County, Drenner hinted several times at the controversy surrounding Buggs' comments.

Buggs was suspended for three days and moved to another department, but his failure to apologize to students and gays drew sharp criticism from some parents and activists.

Buggs did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Dr. Jim Williams, Buggs' supervisor, said an apology is unlikely.

"He initially expressed to me that if he offended some people he would be willing to apologize," Williams said at the caucus meeting. "But after that school board meeting I think that is unlikely."

At a DeKalb School Board meeting earlier this month, eight people stood up to praise either Buggs' comments or his public works.

Other DeKalb officials said what Drenner was asking for isn't difficult.

Still, some school board members raised concerns that training would not change some minds.

"We work with kids eight hours a day, but then they go home to households that may not be sensitive to those issues of tolerance and diversity," said Bill Bryant, board chair.

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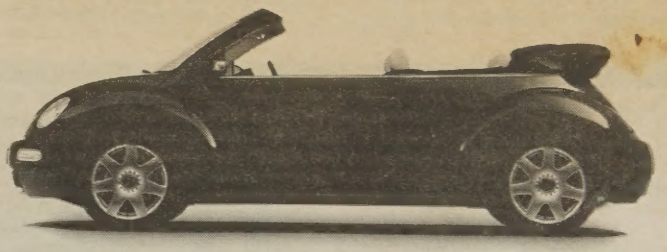

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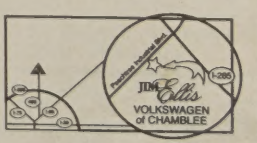

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local news

Black college in N.C. takes pro-active approach to gays

COLLEGES, continued from Page 3

formation of a "Blue Ribbon Panel" to advise Morehouse on strategies to promote a campus environment free of harassment and homophobia, no local gay activists were on the list.

A different approach in North Carolina

Johnson C. Smith University's decision to implement a comprehensive plan to address the needs of its gay students resulted from anti-gay incidents earlier this year on the 100-acre campus in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Jonathan Perry, a gay liberal arts major at Smith, sent Day, the dean of students, and Dorothy Cowser Yancy, the university's president, an e-mail message in May about threats and harassment he said gay students on the campus faced.

Perry described "gross and unwarranted epithets" someone in a vehicle made against him and his partner the night before and said one of the men who approached them told a friend to get his gun because he was about to shoot "that faggot."

"Tonight is the last night I will put up with threats on my life because I am gay," Perry told school officials in the e-mail message. "To date, nothing has been done about the threats and harassment against the GLBT community on our campus.

"I am tired of not feeling safe at the school I pay close to $18,000 every year to attend," he said. "I am not leaving, so something has to be done."

Day said this and other anti-gay incidents at Smith spurred officials there to take action.

"They wake you up and make you aware that something is going on," he said.

The comprehensive solution that Smith administrators, students and gay civil rights organizers in North Carolina came up with includes multicultural competency training for campus security workers and staff in the Student Affairs division.

The university's Judicial Board, which includes faculty, staff members and students, also will be trained to address multicultural issues and specifically, those affecting gay students, Day said.

Officials at Smith also plan to create a task force comprised of school administrators at various levels, staff members, students and local community members.

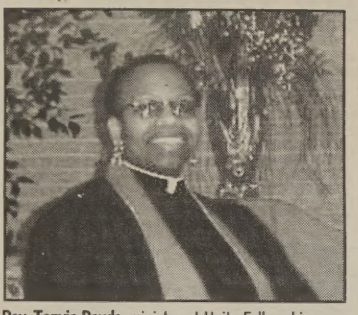
"The faculty has allies on the campus who are willing to help, including two who are white," said Mandy Carter, a longtime gay civil rights advocate and a North Carolina resident. Carter is helping coordinate Smith's broad initiative to support gay students.

Carter noted that it was not only the school administration that Perry needed to work with to protect gay students on campus.

"He also had faculty members who wanted to support him," she said, "including allies and supporters off campus."

Rev. Tonyia Rawls, a black lesbian minister at Unity Fellowship Church, in Charlotte, N.C., also is working with Carter, Perry and others at Smith to launch the gay-related initiatives.

"I'm very proud of the work the university is doing, but we have a long way to go," she said. "I am most proud of the courage of the students on the campus who have to live in an environment that is not always welcoming to them."



Rev. Tonyia Rawls, minister at Unity Fellowship Church, Charlotte, N.C., applauded efforts at Johnson C. Smith University to help gay students but said 'we still have a long way to go.'

Morehouse case labeled hate crime Page 7

Day said officials at Smith identified three "safe spaces" on campus where the school's gay student organization can hold meetings. Rawls is making her church available and said a gay and lesbian community center being built in Charlotte also will make space available.

To ensure that these efforts to more fully support gay students at Smith are institutionalized and become a permanent part of activities there, Day said the university's strategic planning process now includes comprehensive discussions about multiculturalism. There also are plans at Smith to offer a "multicultural curricula infusion" initiative as part of the school's faculty development program.

"While multiculturalism means something broader than LGBT issues, all of this is coming from us because we're dealing with gay issues," Day said. "We're not trying to create some general multiculturalism cloud where LGBT issues get lost."

Jennifer Smith and Lou Chibbaro Jr. contributed.

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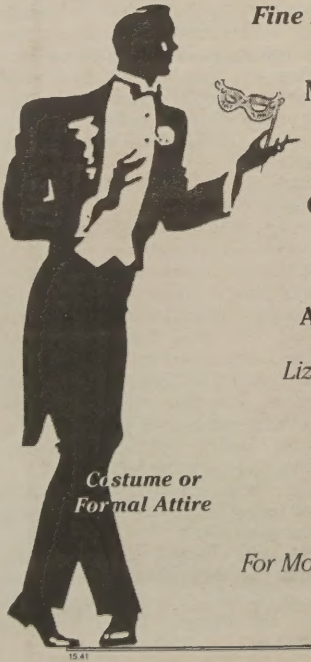

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local news

Morehouse student charged with hate crime

Activists question make-up of school's new diversity panel

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Gays in metro Atlanta applauded last week's announcement that Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard will pursue hate crime charges against former Morehouse sophomore Aaron Price, accused of beating a fellow student with a baseball bat.

The charge, announced Nov. 21, may be the first time the state's hate crime law is specifically invoked to prosecute anti-gay bias.

Hate crimes are "especially egregious because of their intent to threaten a larger group," said Howard, a Morehouse graduate.

Passed in 2001, Georgia's hate crimes law does not cover specific categories like sexual orientation. Instead, it provides for enhanced penalties for crimes that a jury decides were motivated by "bias or prejudice."

Former Morehouse sophomore **Aaron Price** may be the first person in Georgia officially charged with committing a bias crime motivated by sexual orientation. (Photo courtesy Fulton County)

If the jury decides that someone convicted of a felony is also guilty of a hate crime, the judge must increase the sentence by five years in jail, up to the maximum allowed for the underlying offense.

Howard will file official notice with the Fulton County Superior Court that he intends to seek the penalty enhancement by Price's arraignment, set for Dec. 12, said Eric Friedly, spokesperson for the district attorney.

Price was expelled from Morehouse two days after the Nov. 3 attack. He is accused of aggravated assault and aggravated battery.

Gay issues at historically black colleges
Page 3

Both charges carry a sentence of one to 20 years in prison, and would be served concurrently, meaning Price could spend a maximum of 20 years in jail even with the bias enhancement, Friedly said.

Price allegedly beat Morehouse junior Gregory Love with a bat "six or seven times" after Love glanced at Price in a dormitory shower, according to police reports.

Gay students criticized Morehouse officials for refusing to call the attack a hate crime. The school declined comment on Howard's hate crime announcement, while activists applauded the charge.

"We are very pleased with how the district attorney has handled this so far and have every reason to believe the prosecution of the hate crime will go smoothly," said Hector Vargas, regional director for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

Lambda announced this week the group would offer legal assistance to ASSEFA — African Americans for Safe Space Everywhere for All, an ad hoc committee of students and activists formed in response to the attack.

In a joint Nov. 22 press conference, Lambda and ASSEFA called on Morehouse to "change the student handbook and policies to include sexual orientation and explicitly prohibit anti-gay discrimination and violence."

They also asked the school "to ensure that the [blue ribbon panel] specifically addresses homophobia, to support student-led forums and to provide training to students, faculty and staff."

Morehouse, an all-male, predominantly African American private college with 2,800 students, has at least one other anti-gay assault in the last five years, according to campus police.

The atmosphere on campus for some gay Morehouse students worsened after the attack.

"I didn't have any problems until after the attack," said Robert Arnold. "Now I hear 'Any faggots look at me in the shower there's gonna be violence.'"

Other students have left because of the attack, according to gay Morehouse junior Juan Smith, who withdrew two weeks ago.

On Nov. 20, the university announced three members of the blue ribbon panel on diversity created by Morehouse President Walter Massey in the wake of the attack.

Current panel members include Peter Gomes, a professor of Christian Morals and minister at Harvard University's Memorial Church; Paul Burkgett, senior advisor to the president at the University of Rochester; and Caryn McTighe Musil, vice president of diversity, equity and global initiatives at the Association of American Colleges & Universities.

Gomes is the only gay member of the panel, according to activists. While "widely respected," he "is an Ivy League theologian who is far removed from Atlanta's black gay population and their concerns," said Khalid Kamau, spokesperson for ASSEFA.

Gomes refused an interview request.

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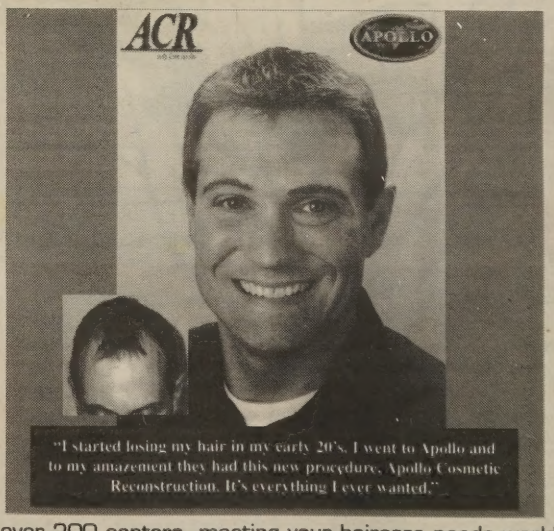
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local news

FBI appeals to hunters for help in search for bomber

Five years after attacks that included gay bar and Olympic venue, Rudolph remains at-large

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

More than five years after a string of bombings shook Atlanta, federal investigators have once again appealed to hunters for help in tracking suspect Eric Robert Rudolph.

"The public's input has been and will continue to be critical in developing leads in the Eric Rudolph fugitive case," said Patrick Crosby, spokesperson for the Southeast Bomb Task Force, which includes the FBI, ATF and other federal and local law enforcement jurisdictions.

Federal investigators recently moved their official headquarters from Atlanta to the FBI's office in Asheville, N.C. On Nov. 22, they issued their annual appeal for help from hunters in western North Carolina, where Rudolph was last seen more than four years ago.

"We are asking them to keep their eyes out for any fresh tracks, camp sites, footprints, buried trash or anything else that looks out of place," Crosby said.

Rudolph, who remains on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list with a $1 million reward on his head, has been indicted in federal court on charges stemming from four attacks that shook the Southeast.

The bombing of Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park on July 27, 1997, killed one and injured more than 100. The Jan. 16, 1997, bombing of an Atlanta abortion clinic injured seven.

The Feb. 21, 1997, bombing of the Otherside Lounge, a now-defunct Atlanta gay bar, injured five.

The first bomb, packed with shrapnel and placed along a fence behind the bar's patio, exploded about 9:50 p.m. A second bomb, found outside and detonated by police in the club's parking lot without further injuries, apparently targeted law enforcement agents responding to the first explosion.

Almost a year later, on Jan. 29, 1998, the bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala., killed an off-duty police officer and critically injured a nurse.

Letters signed by the "Army of God" claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first letter, sent to news outlets the day after the Otherside bombing, promised to target "sodomites" and those who "participate in the murder of children."

In November 2000, federal grand juries in Atlanta and Birmingham indicted Rudolph, allegedly spotted leaving the scene of the Birmingham bombing, for all of the attacks.

Investigators still need the public's help in locating **Eric Robert Rudolph**, charged with bombing an Atlanta gay bar in 1997 and three other bomb attacks in metro Atlanta and Birmingham.

But catching Rudolph, a skilled outdoorsman from North Carolina, has proven more difficult. A massive manhunt focused on the wilderness near Andrews, N.C., where Rudolph was last seen, topped 300 officers at its height in 1998, but numbers "less than a dozen" federal law enforcement officials now, Crosby said.

Still, Rudolph hasn't been seen since July 1998, when health food store owner George Nordmann said the accused bomber visited his home in the Nantahala area looking for food.

Although some have speculated that Rudolph either died or left the area, the bomb task force's investigation remains concentrated in western North Carolina, officials said.

The Otherside, located on Piedmont Road in Midtown, reopened a week after the 1997 attack, but the bombing took a huge emotional and financial toll, according to owner Bev McMahon.

"It's really important to my family that we put this to sleep," said McMahon, now temporarily living in California with her partner, Dana Ford, and their two young children. "We know we are blessed, we know we are lucky, but to really put this to closure — God, I hope it happens."

McMahon said investigators update her on the case quarterly, and she remains ready to testify if needed if Rudolph is captured and brought to trial.

"I believe in my heart they will catch him. I think they have done an incredible job," she said. "I can't say enough about how hard they are working on this case."

The Otherside closed last year, and McMahon said this week she has now leased the building to someone who plans to open a Latin restaurant.

MORE INFO

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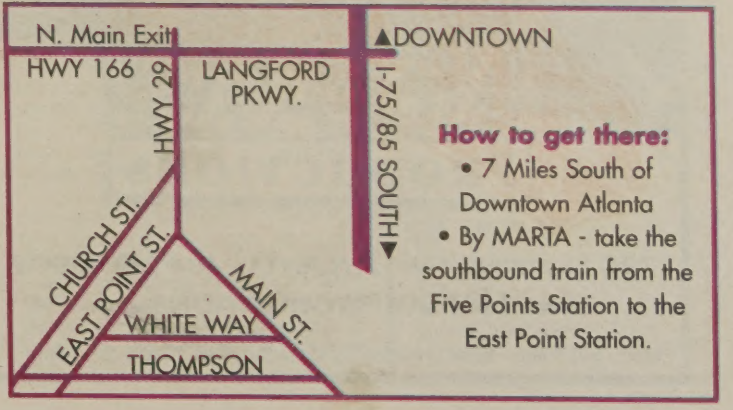

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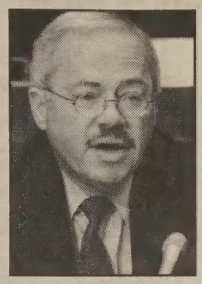
national news

Anti-gay conservative Bob Barr hired as ACLU consultant

WASHINGTON — Former U.S. Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.), a conservative known for his opposition to gay rights who lost his re-election bid earlier this year, will become a consultant for the American Civil Liberties Union, which has a history of gay rights work. "We are delighted to have Congressman Barr join us in advocating for individual privacy," ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero told the New York Times on Nov. 22. "It indicates that the ACLU has no permanent friends and no permanent allies, just permanent values," said Romero, who is gay. Barr, who spoke out against potential infringements on civil liberties in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, will serve as a consultant on national security and privacy issues, according to the ACLU. Barr lost to Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.) in the Republican primary last July. The ACLU has also tapped departing House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) to serve in a similar consulting role. Barr sponsored the successful Defense of Marriage Act, which banned federal recognition of gay marriages. Armey, who has said he believes homosexuality is a sin, famously referred to gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) as "Barney Fag."



Former U.S. Rep. **Bob Barr** (R-Ga.), who has a history of opposing gay civil rights, was hired last week as a consultant for the gay-friendly ACLU. (Photo by AP)

NFL player apologizes for anti-gay comment

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers running back Garrison Hearst apologized at a Nov. 22 press conference for anti-gay comments he made three weeks earlier, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. "First of all, I want to apologize to the gay community for the comments that I made. I didn't realize they would be so harmful," Hearst said during a 40-second speech broadcast live on local television. "Me being African American, I know that discrimination is wrong. I know that I was wrong saying what I said about anybody." Last month, former NFL player Esera Tuaolo acknowledged that he is gay, setting off a national debate about gays in professional sports. In an interview with the Fresno Bee three weeks ago, Hearst used an anti-gay slur when asked how he felt about gay players. "I don't want any faggots on my team," he said. The 49ers' executives, mindful of their home city's large, vocal gay population, distanced themselves from Hearst's remarks, according to the Associated Press.

La. sodomy law upheld by federal appeals court

NEW ORLEANS – Louisiana's 197-year-old law against oral and anal sex was upheld by a state appeals panel, the Associated Press reported. A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal ruled 2-1 on Nov. 20 against the challenge by the Louisiana Electorate of Gays & Lesbians, leaving Louisiana's sodomy law intact. The majority of judges said the plaintiffs brought no evidence that the "crime against nature" law discriminates against gays. John D. Rawls, an attorney for the plaintiffs, disagreed. "That statute obviously expresses Louisiana's overarching public policy to treat its gay citizens like scum," he said. The 4th Circuit ruling was the latest action in a complicated case. The state Supreme Court already ruled that the law does not violate the right to privacy, while last week's ruling dealt with the issue of discrimination. "I'm considering my options and consulting with my fellow petitioners," Rawls said.

Penn. town weighs naming school for gay civil rights leader

WESTTOWN, Penn. — Supporters outnumbered opponents 3-to-1 last week at a meeting debating whether the new high school in Westtown Township should be named after Bayard Rustin, a leader of the black civil rights movement who was gay, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer. "In America, we don't expect our heroes to be perfect," Stephen Sander, 56, of Westtown, told the Nov. 20 public meeting of the High School Name Committee. The school board decided in May to name the school after Rustin, but voted Oct. 28 to reopen discussion after opponents objected to Rustin's sexual orientation, the fact that he went to prison rather than fight in World War II, and his alleged ties to the Communist Party. School board member June Cardosi said she objected to Rustin's "un-American activities" and "some of his more personal traits." The naming committee must decide on a name for the school by Jan. 28.

Chicago high school chooses gay 'cutest couple'

CHICAGO — Students at Crete-Monee High School are sticking by their choice of two female students as the "cutest couple" in their class, the Chicago Tribune reported. About 60 students walked out of class Nov. 19 to protest what they perceive as "foot-dragging" by the school administration. "Because sex preference is such a private issue, prior to making it a permanent printed record — such as in the yearbook — parental permission was required," said Sue Rossi, spokesperson for the school district. Critics said the school is using a double standard for the two young women. "I doubt if this couple were a boy and girl they'd see a need to run it by the parents," said Patricia Logue, an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Bush to drop Clinton appointees from AIDS panel

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

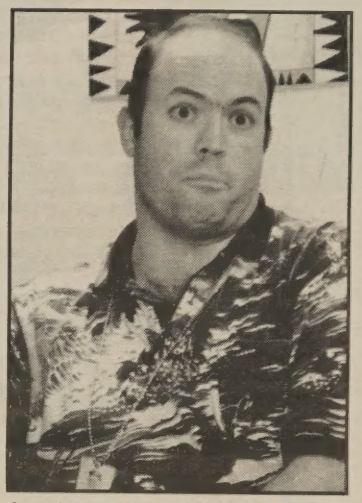
WASHINGTON — All but one of the eight remaining Clinton appointees on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS are expected to be notified by the Bush administration that they will not be re-appointed when their terms expire in January, sources familiar with the administration said.

AIDS activists said they are not surprised that the Bush administration chose to name its own people for the panel, known as PACHA, but they expressed concern that the administration might replace the Clinton appointees with conservative ideologues who favor "abstinence only" HIV prevention programs.

Nearly all of the Clinton holdovers on the panel are gay and have pushed for a variety of HIV prevention strategies that include condom use and other safer sex techniques in addition to sexual abstinence.

Some activists said they were pleased to learn this week that one of the Clinton replacements would be gay Republican activist David Greer. Greer is the former president of the Log Cabin Republican group in Philadelphia and is a current member of the board of governors of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

"No one should take offense or be surprised about this," said Bill Pierce, spokesperson for U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services Tommy Thompson. "It's standard practice for any new administration to bring in its own people for positions like this."



Gay and AIDS activist **Brent Minor** was expected to be the only Clinton appointee to be re-appointed by Bush to a second term on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Most of the Clinton appointees to PACHA now facing removal are gay.

In January, Bush named 26 new members to PACHA, including conservative Republican Tom Colburn, a former congressman from Oklahoma, as its co-chair. The president named Louis Sullivan, the HHS secretary under the previous Bush administration, as the other co-chair.

Bush also named four gay Republicans to the panel: Charles Francis, Abner Mason, James Driscoll and Joe Hastings.

Francis, a longtime friend of the Bush family, since resigned from the panel after his public relations firm took on a foreign government as a client. Federal conflict of interest rules prevent individuals working for foreign governments from serving on U.S. government panels.

One knowledgeable source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said gay and AIDS activist Brent Minor is expected to be the only Clinton appointee to be re-appointed by Bush to a second PACHA term. Earlier this year, Colburn named Minor as chair of one of three PACHA committees. Minor, who has HIV, serves as an informal PACHA representative to the HIV/AIDS community.

Another source that also spoke on condition of anonymity said several PACHA members were unsure when their terms would expire and that PACHA's executive director, Patricia Ware, was unable to find documents specifying when the terms were scheduled to end.

"There's a lot of confusion over this," the source said. "No one seems to know."

Ware, a conservative activist with ties to conservative religious groups, has become a controversial figure, emerging as an outspoken advocate for abstinence-only programs and other conservative causes. During the Clinton administration, PACHA Executive Director Daniel Montoya limited his activities to internal administrative duties, such as record keeping and coordination of meetings.

Administration insiders say some of the Bush-appointed PACHA members are beginning to express their own concerns about Ware, saying she neglects her administrative duties by appearing at too many out-of-town speaking engagements. It was unclear whether administrative snafus were responsible for Coburn and Sullivan's decision to cancel a PACHA meeting scheduled for September.

Ware did not return a call seeking comment by press time.

MORE INFO

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NIH researchers recruiting volunteers to test HIV vaccine

By RHONDA SMITH

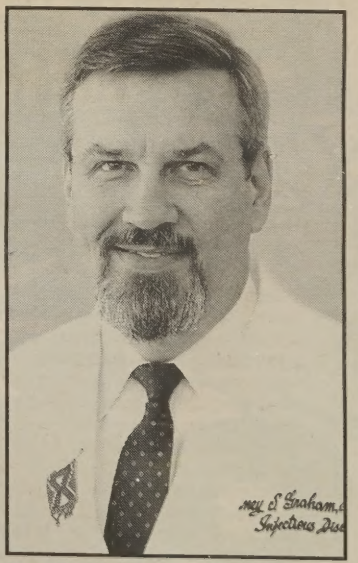
WASHINGTON — Travis Worl received his first inoculation this week with a new HIV vaccine that researchers hope one day will prevent humans worldwide from contracting the virus that causes AIDS.

"It's very much a personal choice, but I think it's a little thing that we can do to possibly help in a big way," the 27-year-old said of his decision to take part in the study. "I have friends who are HIV-positive, and I've seen the complications and the stress it's caused in their lives."

Worl is one of 50 HIV-negative men and women between the ages of 18 and 40 that researchers at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., plan to use in the study's first phase. Six of the 50 volunteers are selected so far.

Researchers at the Dale & Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center began clinical tests of the HIV vaccine Nov. 13. The research center is an arm of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, an NIH division.

Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, said this is the first "multigene and multiclade HIV vaccine" to enter human trials. It marks an important milestone in the search for a single vaccine that targets U.S. subtypes of HIV as well as HIV strains more prevalent in other parts of the world, he said.



Barney S. Graham, chief of the Vaccine Research Center's clinical trial and lead investigator in a new vaccine trial, said it is not possible to be infected with the vaccine used in the trial.

Johns Hopkins University officials are on the Phase III clinical trial of a vaccine known as AIDSVAX. Phase III is the final stage of clinical testing before drug companies can apply for licensing from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

The FDA granted VaxGen Inc., the biotechnology company that developed AIDSVAX, permission to start clinical trials on that vaccine in 1998. Results of the study are expected to be unveiled in early 2003.

During Phase I of the Vaccine Research Center's study, which is scheduled to last 12 months, scientists will monitor the vaccine's safety and document whether it induces the desired response in volunteers.

Barney Graham, chief of the Vaccine Research Center's Clinical Trial's Core and lead investigator in the vaccine trial, said if the vaccine elicits an HIV antibody reaction from a volunteer, he or she could test positive for HIV by standard tests that detects HIV antibodies as opposed to HIV itself. This does not mean the participant actually is HIV-infected, he said.

"One certainty is that it is not possible to be infected by the vaccine, which is synthetically produced to mimic shapes and structures of the virus," Graham said.

But the Vaccine Research Center's Web site (www.niaid.hih.gov/vrc) notes that there is the theoretical possibility of serious side effects or reactions that are unknown at this time. NIAID officials said they monitor volunteers in the study very closely for adverse reactions to the vaccine.

Researchers will monitor Worl and other Phase I participants in the study for arm redness and soreness as well as muscle aches and other mild flu-like symptoms. Participants will receive three injections during the first three months of the study, and then will be monitored monthly.

If the vaccine works as well as it has in animal studies, it would advance into larger clinical trials in 2003, during which it would be tested on hundreds of other volunteers, Graham said. If Phase II of the study succeeds, researchers would begin Phase III trials in 2004, which would involve testing thousands of volunteers with the vaccine.

NIAID officials could know by 2007 whether the vaccine works, Graham said.

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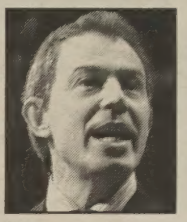
international news

Britain proposes overhaul of sex offense laws

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair's government proposed a thorough overhaul of the nation's sex offense laws last week, urging Parliament to tighten statutes that protect children from sexual exploitation and to repeal remaining laws against gay male sex, the Associated Press reported. Presenting the results of an official study on sex offenses, Home Secretary David Blunkett said the government planned to introduce a package of measures that would modernize Britain's Victorian-era sex laws and crack down on sexual predators. "The law on sexual offenses is archaic and incoherent," Blunkett told the House of Commons, saying that the last major sex offense act, passed 46 years ago, was mostly a consolidation of 19th-century law. Britain began in 1967 to repeal old laws banning private, consensual sex between adult men. "The changes are long overdue," said Sacha Deshmukh of the gay rights group Stonewall. "This means there's one equal law that deals with gay and straight sex in the same way."



The government of British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** has proposed a sweeping overhaul of the nation's sex laws, including repealing a gay sex ban. (Photo by AP)

Ceiling collapses on dancers at Australian gay nightclub

SYDNEY — Dozens of wailing partygoers comforted each other in the early hours Sunday after 16 were injured when the ceiling of a city nightclub collapsed, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. Fifty were on the dance floor at the Stonewall Hotel in Oxford Street when the second-floor suspended ceiling collapsed at 5:15 a.m. Most escaped with cuts and bruises, but one man was trapped under the wreckage for about 20 minutes. "We thought it was a bomb — it was surreal," said Jean-Paul Chia. "All the gay boys were congregating outside wailing and crying, saying, 'Oh no, Bali has happened again.' But it hadn't." The building's owner, John Serafim, said he believed the tenants who run the nightclub had the building inspected three months ago. A structural engineer was to assess the damage this week.

British Columbia gays to join national class-action lawsuit

TORONTO — A nationwide class-action lawsuit launched by gays moved a step closer to trial last week when a judge unofficially consented to allowing a similar 2,000-member British Columbia suit to be heard with the Toronto-based one, the Canadian Press reported. The suit seeks more than $400 million from the Canada Pension Plan. "It means that instead of having to fight a two-front war against the government and facing two sets of appeals and two sets of trials and two sets of costs, we'll have one trial," said Douglas Elliott, lawyer for the main plaintiff, George Hislop. The case is expected to go to court for four weeks in June. The lawsuit, launched in Toronto last year, alleges discrimination against same-sex couples by denying benefits to gays whose partners died before Jan. 1, 1998. The federal government imposed the 1998 cut-off date when it introduced legislation that granted a variety of rights to same-sex couples in 2000. The suit seeks benefits retroactive to April 17, 1985, the day equality guarantees were enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

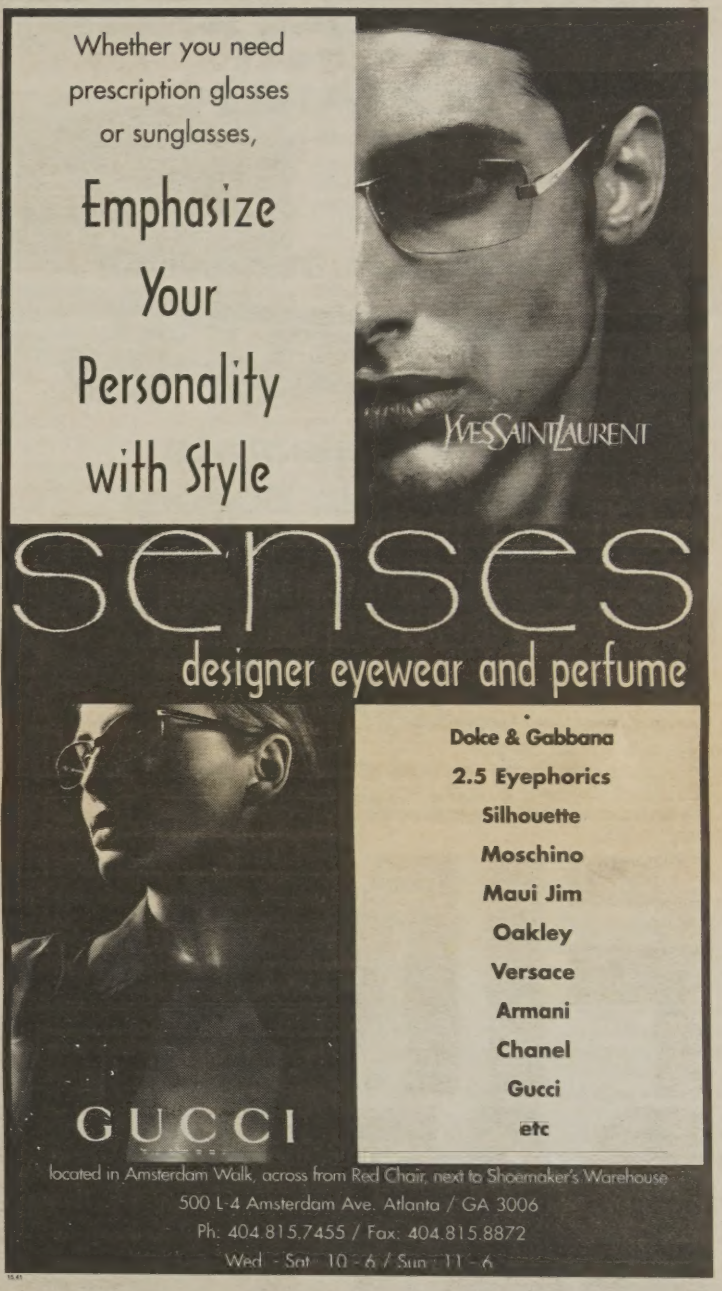
New Zealand leaders clash over gay immigration category

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Winston Peters and Immigration Minister Lianne Dalziel traded insults last week over a now defunct "Homosexual Family" immigration category, the Dominion Post reported. Dalziel issued a letter advising an unnamed person that the Immigration Service was "pleased to inform you that your application for residence under the Family Homosexual Category has been approved in principle." Peters said he was surprised to learn the "nonsensical" category existed. Dalziel retaliated immediately, suggesting Peters had moved from xenophobia to homophobia and was once again advancing an "own goal" before he had checked the facts. Dalziel said the category was removed because gay couples had to wait four years before they were entitled to make a residency application, while heterosexual couples had to wait two years. All de facto couples were now subject to the same requirements under a new "De Facto Partner" category, she said.

Russian gay club owner complains of looting after hostage crisis

MOSCOW — Gay club Central Station was looted to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars in the aftermath of the recent hostage crisis, the club's founder Ilya Abaturov told the Moscow Times. The club is in the same building as the Dubrovka theater, where hundreds of people were taken hostage by armed Chechens during a performance of "Nord Ost" on Oct. 23. Security forces took control of the club during the siege and used it to enter the adjoining theater in a dawn raid Oct. 26. After the theater was stormed, large quantities of alcohol and the sound system were stolen from the club, Abaturov said, and homophobic graffiti was scrawled on a wall. Apart from the material loss, Abaturov said the club is under pressure from the local administration to close down. "It's homophobia," Abaturov said. Government officials refused to comment.

From staff and wire reports



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national news

Race for first U.S. gay network continues

Viacom memo holds clues to spring launch; PrideVision retreats from expansion

By MIKE FLEMING

Plans for the U.S launch of an all-gay television network continue, despite delays by one company and few details from the other.

Canada's PrideVision and entertainment heavyweight Viacom are competing to bring to market a gay cable channel, though PrideVision's expansion into the U.S., planned for this year, has been delayed.

The Viacom effort, a collaboration between properties MTV and Showtime, may hit TV screens sometime next year, though company officials are being tight-lipped about details, despite the recent leak of an apparent internal document outlining their plans.

"It's safe to say the channel is still in the works," said Bob Witeck, partner in the Washington, D.C.-based Witeck-Combs Communications, which is handling public relations for Viacom. "As soon as we are able to share more of the specifics, we'll be in touch."

Last January, Showtime MTV Networks announced an effort to research the viability of a gay-oriented network. Potential programming could include Showtime's "Queer as Folk" and "Queer Duck" as well as original programs produced specifically for the gay network.

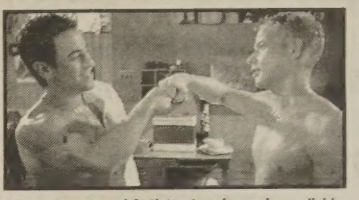
In May, members of an informal advisory panel in Atlanta met with Gene Falk, the gay senior vice president for Showtime's Digital Media Group, and Matt Farber, MTV's gay consultant on the project. Similar meetings were held across the country.

The panel included a cross-section of high-profile local gay activists. Panel members said that Viacom showed commitment to capture diverse facets of gay life and that they were asked to keep details of the meeting confidential.

Witeck said the forums were "information seeking" efforts, but he and Viacom officials have remained essentially mum since then.

The working name for the channel at that time was OutLook, according to panel members. But a Viacom internal memo leaked Nov. 13 to the Internet site internalmemos.com — ostensibly from Showtime Chairman and CEO Matthew Blank to Viacom staff members — shows that the name has been tweaked.

"The name Outlet represents the overall mission of the new channel, which is to serve as the premiere media 'outlet' for entertainment and information to the more than 14 million gay and lesbian adults in the United States," the memo states. "Outlet will offer a variety of programming that represents the broad diversity of this community, including films, documentaries, news and popular series."



Viacom's proposed Outlet network may be available next year, but it won't include erotica like 'XXXtreme' on Canada's PrideVision.

Showtime and MTV officials referred questions to Witeck, who declined to confirm the validity or contents of the 2,000-word document.

MTV will provide expertise in original programming, on-air promotions and sponsorships, and Showtime will be responsible for operations of Outlet, the memo states.

In a question-and-answer format, the memo addresses some 50 issues pertaining to the channel. It confirms a launch date in the second quarter of 2003, the name Outlet and a corporate Web site of OutletTV.com. That domain name is registered to Showtime Networks, and the registration lists Viacom as its administrative contact.

The memo also cites headway in closing deals with advertisers and cable carriers for the channel without naming any takers. It promises an announcement of signed advertisers "early next year."

The memo cites a subscriber-only distribution model that allows only viewers requesting the channel to receive it. That plan should pre-empt anti-gay protests, according to the memo.

Viacom is also working to safeguard the confidentiality of subscribers, he document states.

The memo also highlights differences between the Viacom project and PrideVision, which is currently promoting a subscriber drive to "save" the channel. The effort seeks to add 50,000 subscribers to the existing 20,000 "before cuts are considered."

PrideVision originally had plans to enter the U.S. market last fall, but company officials retreated to "secure Canadian support for our existing network first," said Mark Lieber, senior vice president of programming for the channel's U.S. market.

"We are still confident that we will expand into the American market," he said, declining to elaborate on a potential launch date.

A difference between the two networks is that Viacom will not air erotica, according to members of the market research panels. PrideVision shows adult material late-nights three times a week.

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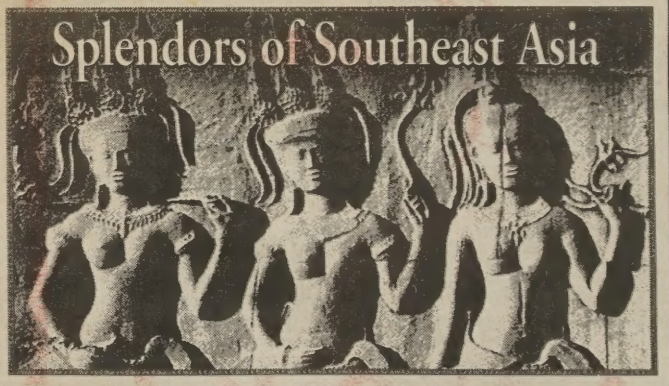

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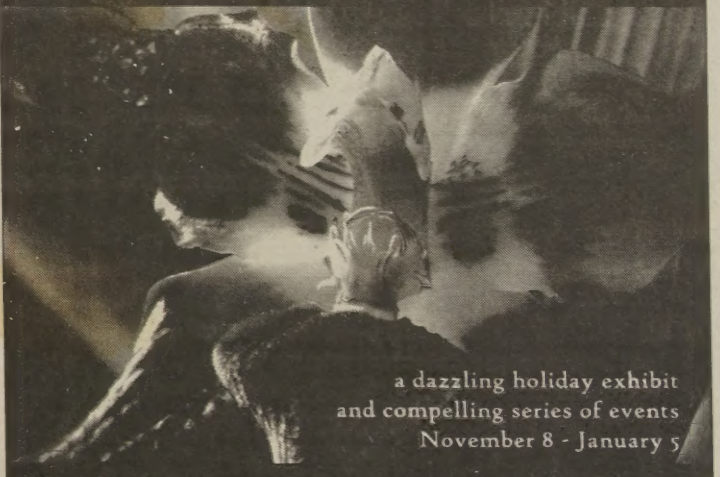

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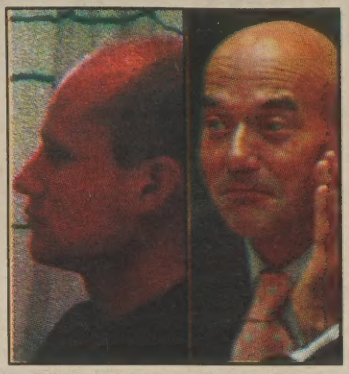
police beat

Suspect confesses to slaying gay Dutch politician, police say

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The man charged in the killing of gay Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn confessed to the crime, prosecutors said last week, according to the Associated Press. In his first statement since his arrest minutes after the May 6 shooting, Volkert van der Graaf, 33, said he was concerned Fortuyn, an outspoken columnist, posed a threat to "vulnerable members of society" and worried about Fortuyn's "prejudiced political ideas," according to a statement from prosecutors. Van der Graaf said he acted alone to kill Fortuyn, who was then a leading candidate in national elections. Under Dutch law, prosecutors have to prove their case in court even with a confession, and hearings are scheduled for early next year. Van der Graaf was captured with the suspected murder weapon in his pocket, gunpowder on his gloves and cell tissue on his trousers.



Volkert van der Graaf (left) last week reportedly confessed to killing gay Dutch politician **Pim Fortuyn** over his perceived threat to 'vulnerable members of society.' (Photos by AP)

Gay Ill. man charged with killing woman who challenged his sexual orientation

CHICAGO — A gay man is charged with first-degree murder and related charges in the Nov. 13 slaying of a woman who tried to persuade him to change his sexual orientation, police and prosecutors told the Chicago Tribune. Nicholas Gutierrez, 19, who lives in the apartment where the body of Mary Stachowicz, 51, was found in a crawl space, was also charged with attempting to conceal a homicide and burglary for allegedly stealing money from Stachowicz's purse. Assistant State's Attorney Nancy Galassini said Gutierrez confessed. "The defendant punched and kicked and stabbed the victim until he was tired," Galassini said. "He then placed a plastic garbage bag over her head and strangled her." Gutierrez first told police that the day Stachowicz disappeared, he had a run-in with a man who might have killed Stachowicz, police said. When Gutierrez's story didn't check out, police questioned him again, and he confessed, police said. During Gutierrez's Nov. 17 hearing, prosecutors asked for no bail and said that they may seek the death penalty. Bond was set at $3 million.

Mo. man put to death for 1986 murder of gay man

POTOSI, Mo. — William Jones Jr. was put to death Nov. 20 for the 1986 killing of a gay man, according to the Associated Press. Jones, 37, died by lethal injection. His appeals exhausted and a clemency petition denied by Gov. Bob Holden, Jones wrote a final statement read aloud after his execution. He said he regretted the murder of Stanley Albert, 49, who he met at a Kansas City park frequented by gay men, but that he did not deserve to be executed. "Maybe it will cause someone to think twice before causing the same kind of pain we have endured," said Chris Albert, the victim's son. Jones' attorneys said he had a confused sexual identity and that he panicked when Albert propositioned him. But prosecutors called it a cold-blooded execution-style killing over a car after Jones met and dated Albert.

Fourth suspect in Calif. trans killing delays plea

FREMONT, Calif. — Jason Cazares, one of four men charged with murder in the Oct. 3 killing of transgender teen Gwen Araujo, delayed entering a plea last week until Dec. 13, the same day that two of the other three suspects in the case are expected to enter pleas, the Oakland Tribune reported. Another suspect pleaded innocent in October and led police to Araujo's body. Cazares is in jail without bail after investigators found a pickax, spade and hoe believed to dig the shallow grave where Araujo's body was found, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Cazares initially was thought to be a witness at the party where Araujo was discovered as a biological male before being beaten and strangled, but police later charged him as a key suspect. "We're looking at Cazares as a co-principal in the death of Araujo," said Lt. Tom Milner. Police confiscated Cazares' Chevy pickup along with the tools.

Calif. man found guilty of murdering gay couple

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — A man whose 1997 murder conviction was overturned for inadequate counsel was found guilty for a second time Nov. 18 in the 1995 killings of a gay couple, according to the Palm Springs Desert Sun. A sentence is expected Dec. 19 for Johnny Baca, 32. Baca's attorney, James Silva, said the defense plans to appeal. Baca lived and worked at the home of John Adair, 57, and his partner, John Mix, 39. The Fourth District Court of Appeal reversed the original conviction in 1999 when it ruled Baca's defense made crucial errors. In early case testimony this round, prosecutors alleged the killing was part of a plan by Adair's adopted son, Tom, so he and Baca could collect insurance money. Baca denied being part of a conspiracy during his testimony.

From staff and wire reports

national news

HRC poll: 71 percent of gays voted Democratic

Poll shows gays made up 5 percent of voters in congressional races

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON—Gays cast their votes for Democrats over Republicans by a margin of 71 percent to 19 percent in the 2002 U.S. congressional elections, according to a post-election poll commissioned by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

The poll, conducted by the Zogby International polling firm, showed that 4.1 percent of voters identifying themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual said they cast their votes for Libertarian Party candidates and 2.7 reported voting for Green Party candidates running for Congress. The remaining 3.2 percent either refused to disclose who they voted for or said they weren't sure.

The poll also found that gay voters made up 5 percent of the electorate in the 2002 general election.

"These numbers clearly demonstrate the importance of the gay community in major elections," said David Smith, HRC's communications director and senior strategist. "In the current political climate, 5 percent of the vote is often the entire margin of victory."

Smith said HRC retained Zogby International to conduct the poll after it learned that the Voter News Service, a polling consortium operated by television network news departments, chose not to include gay voters in election day exit polls this year. VNS has incorporated gays into its exit polls in a manor similar to other minorities since the 1996 presidential election.

Those polls showed that gays comprised between 4 and 5 percent of the electorate and that Democratic candidates received between 66 percent and 70 percent of the gay vote, with Republican candidates receiving between 25 percent and 33 percent.

In the 2000 presidential election, VNS exit polls showed Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore received 70 percent of the gay vote and President Bush received 25 percent, and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader received 4 percent.

Rich Tafel, outgoing executive director of the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans, said he questioned the Zogby poll's findings that only19 percent of gays voted for Republican congressional candidates in 2002. Tafel noted that the VNS exit poll in 1998 mid-term congressional elections showed Republicans capturing 33 percent of the gay vote.

"Common sense would tell us that this should not have dropped below 25 percent this year," Tafel said. "The best way to do this would have been to poll voters directly as they left the polls, the way VNS does it. Nobody was more disappointed than us that VNS didn't do this, because they are an objective source."

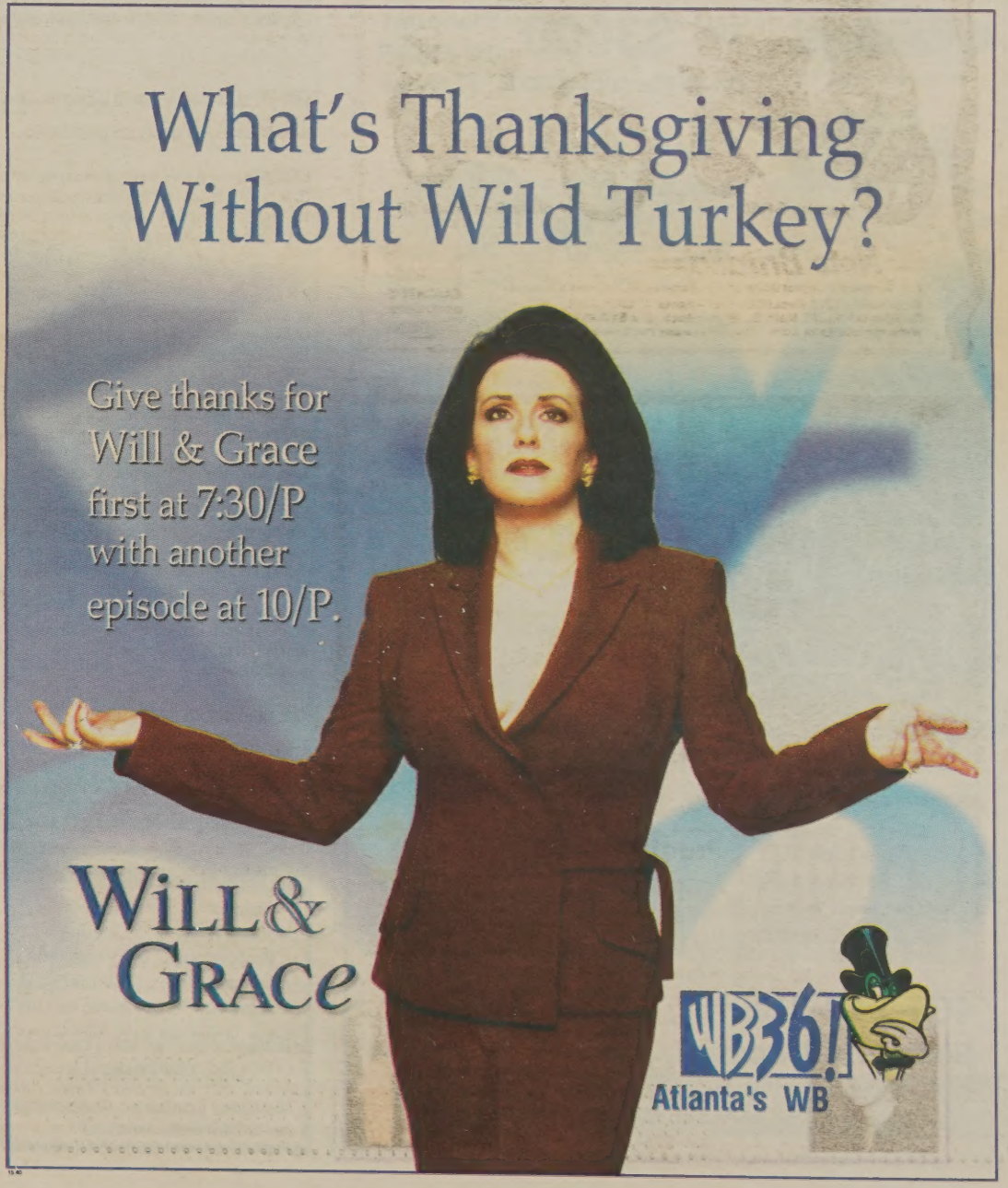
Smith said HRC also would have preferred to see a VNS exit poll. But he said an exit poll would have cost several hundred thousand dollars, a figure HRC could not justify spending.

According to a statement released by Zogby International, the firm conducted the post-election poll commissioned by HRC through an online survey from Nov. 13-18. Zogby based its findings on a sample of 412 voters who identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. The 2000 VNS exit poll obtained a sample of 520 gay voters.

The Zogby firm said it obtained its sample of 412 from a larger sample of 8,280 likely voters that, in turn, was obtained from a still larger, pre-screened pool of 63,000 likely voters. The 63,000 likely voters had registered with Zogby as participants in an ongoing survey research program. The 63,000 "have been identified by demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal data points and are more or less representative of voters as a whole," the firm said.

The Zogby poll findings suggest that gay Democrats were correct in asserting that the party's gay voter "base" backed Democratic candidates in significant numbers. However, some of those candidates lost or came close to losing, prompting analysts to speculate whether supporting gay rights may still be problematic for some politicians, especially those in the South.

For example, gay-supportive Sen. Max Clelend (D-Ga.) lost his re-election bid in a race where opponents sited his support for gay issues as proof that he was too liberal for Georgia.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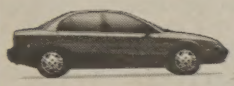

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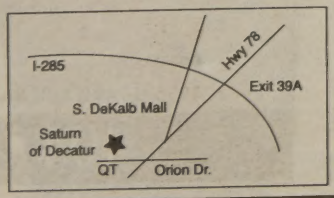

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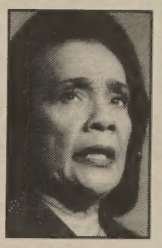
religion news

King's widow calls for HIV funds, gay hate crime legislation



Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., accepted an award from the Metropolitan Community Foundation by calling for HIV resources and hate crime laws that include sexual orientation. (Photo by AP)

SAN FRANCISCO — Coretta Scott King, 75, insisted on more resources to find a cure for HIV and called for hate crime laws to include sexual orientation in a speech accepting the Circles of Hope Award from the Metropolitan Community Foundation, a gay social-service organization, the Ventura County Star reported. "Mrs. King has stood up for us when she didn't have to," said Rev. G. Penny Nixon. "She stood up for us when she took criticism for standing up for us, and she has never, never let us down." Patti LaBelle sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to honor King's slain husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. "I know she should be our next president," LaBelle joked.

Gay rights ministry honors Yale theologian

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale Divinity School Professor Margaret Farley received New Ways Ministry's Bridge Building Award for her challenge to Catholic policy on gay rights, according to the Yale Daily News. "I have not been allowed to leave these issues behind, for they have become more pressing, not less," Farley said. "Homophobia is in the air we breathe." Maryland-based New Ways Ministry awards Catholics who promote gay rights in the Roman Catholic Church. Farley also directs the Divinity School Project on Gender, Faith and Responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa. Farley said church disputes on gay rights serve as a reminder of the presence of God. "We must go on building bridges across gaps in understanding and love — bridges strong enough so that we can meet in shared lands," Farley said.

Queensland church schools allowed to discriminate

BRISBANE, Aus. — Churches in the conservative Australian state of Queensland forced the government to water down its anti-discrimination laws, the Brisbane Courier-Mail reported. Under proposed legislation, church schools would not be able to refuse to hire gay teachers. But Queensland Attorney General Rod Welford said that the proposed laws will be amended to exempt non-government schools. The schools will lose the right to refuse employment to applicants solely because they are gay. Under the changes, the "genuine occupational requirement" exemption allows schools to favor applicants who believe in the religion and uphold its values. Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Joe McCorley told the Courier-Mail that the church would support the legislation. Local gay activist Todd Buttery remains concerned by any divergence in rules between religious and non-religious schools. "Students have the right to be taught by teachers from all backgrounds and lifestyles," he said. "This applies to religious and non-religious based schools." Church leaders expressed satisfaction with the amendment.

Ky. priest files defamation suit against creator of Internet site

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A Roman Catholic priest filed a defamation lawsuit against the creator of an Internet site that accuses the Lexington Catholic diocese of promoting a "homosexual agenda," according to the Associated Press. Rev. James Sichko said Web master Efrain Cortes falsely accuses him of being "actively involved in the homosexual culture that exists in Lexington" and of "cruising the schools in the diocese." Sichko, a campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University and Georgetown College, said the allegations caused him "great injury" and forced him to endure "public hatred, contempt and ridicule." But Cortes, a maintenance worker whose Web alias is "Abe Lincoln," said he is an Internet journalist who is telling the truth about Sichko and other priests. He vows the 13-month-old Internet site, which also criticizes liberal Catholics, feminists and dissenters, won't be shut down. "I hope to inform as many Catholics as possible as to what's going on in the diocese," Cortes said. The diocese accused Cortes of "posting false accusations, vicious innuendo and what can only be characterized as opinion masquerading as fact.

Presbyterian pastor's resignation sparks debate

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. — Presbyterian pastor Jack Miller's decision to tie his resignation to his sexual orientation raised hackles among church leaders, according to the Mount Kisco Journal-News. Miller resigned from the Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco to avoid a church trial on charges of sexual improprieties involving adolescent boys. While Miller might have sidestepped discussion of the misconduct allegations, church officials still plan to deal with them. Elder Harriet Sandmeier, clerk for the Presbytery of the Hudson River, said that she plans to outline charges against Miller at a Dec. 3 regional meeting of the presbytery. In a letter to his former parishioners, Miller said that he was resigning in the hopes of avoiding a divisive trial that was scheduled for December. Miller said he feared misconduct charges would discredit a movement to defy a provision in the church prohibiting non-celibate gays from being ordained.

From staff and wire reports

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World AIDS Day focuses on life

Local events include AIDS Quilt displays, testing outreach

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The NAMES Project Foundation just moved into a spacious, climate-controlled facility that is the largest in the history of the 80,000-panel AIDS Memorial Quilt. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Several Atlanta AIDS service organizations will join in a global effort to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in commemoration of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

UNAIDS coordinated efforts as part of its current two-year campaign "Live and Let Live."

The campaign strives to eliminate major obstacles in effective HIV/AIDS prevention. Many people living with HIV and AIDS refuse to disclose their status publicly and are turned away from health care services and housing due to fear of discrimination, according to the World AIDS Day Web site.

Atlanta efforts will focus on community education during the week following World AIDS Day. Forums range from workshops for people living with the virus to educational outreach in gay bars and church memorial services honoring people who have died from the disease.

The NAMES Project Foundation commemorates World AIDS Day and officially celebrates its arrival in Atlanta with a Dec. 2 dedication of its new national headquarters here.

The Names Project preserves, cares for and uses the AIDS Memorial Quilt for healing, awareness and education. The group re-located to Atlanta in March 2001. But its permanent home on Krog Street in Inman Park was not ready until last week.

Staff members moved into the new 15,000 square-foot facility at the beginning this week with 5,000 square feet allotted for the 54-ton quilt.

"The quilt itself is in the nicest facility it's been in since its inception," said Julie Rhoad, managing director of the NAMES Project Foundation.

Amidst moving plans, the NAMES Project shipped two-thirds of the quilt to different locations for appearances across the country. The NAMES Project has curated displays for Worlds AIDS Day since the day's inception, Rhoad said.

"World AIDS Day is a huge time for us," Rhoad said. "Typically we ship about one-half to two-thirds out to display it."

In Atlanta alone, about 60 quilt displays will take place around World AIDS Day. The Fox Theatre, the Fulton County Government Center, the Atlanta Jewish Community Center and Atlanta City Hall are some of the largest venues currently hosting panels from the quilt.

From the Dec. 2 dedication ceremony until Dec. 6, the quilt also will be on display at the NAMES Project national headquarters for viewing and repair in a special sewing workshop, Rhoad said.

At AID Atlanta, World AIDS Day efforts will urge people to find out their HIV status through testing, said Chris Parsons, director of advocacy and community relations.

"It is not so much about your friend who died anymore, but knowing your status," Parsons said. "The first step is an HIV test."

The emphasis of World AIDS Day changed since it first started in the late '80s, Parsons said.

"It was much more personally related to loss when it first started out," he said. "Everybody died. Back then, you got diagnosed and there really was no hope."

But now the message is about knowing your risk, learning how to cope with an HIV-positive diagnosis and recognizing the escalating infection rates worldwide, Parsons said.

Globally in the year 2000, more than 8,000 people died from AIDS and 14,000 new HIV infections were diagnosed each day, according to the World AIDS Day Web site.

More than 95 percent of all AIDS cases occur in the world's poorest countries, according to the site.

"Every day is World AIDS Day, particularly in countries where they may have AZT but that's it," Parsons said.

COMMUNITY NEWS, **Page 23** OCCASIONS, **Page 56**

Schedule of events

SATURDAY NOV. 30

Combating Stigma & Discrimination. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. General health screening and HIV testing. South DeKalb Mall. 2801 Candler Road.

"The Epidemic." 5–8 p.m. Short narrative film that re-examines impact of AIDS in new millennium. African Spectrum Bookstore. 1295 Brockett Rd., Suite G. Clarkston. 770-496-1140

SUNDAY DEC. 1

Atlanta Women of Color HIV Testing. Free, rapid HIV testing — results ready in an hour — for women. Put on by AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta. 131 Ponce de Leon Ave. Suite 130. 404-876-2317 x334

Walk, Vigil & Service. 4 p.m. March begins at corner of Peachtree and Baker Streets downtown and ends at Ebenezer Baptist Church for candlelight vigil and service. 407 Auburn Ave. 770-879-9694

Hopewell Baptist Church Services. 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. AIDGwinnett Executive Director Larry M. Lehman to speak at services. AIDS Memorial Quilt displayed. 182 Hunter St. in Norcross, 770-962-8396 x23

Victory Church Services. 8 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Kyle Monroe-Spencer, AIDGwinnett director of HIV prevention education, to speak. 1170 N. Hairston Rd. in Stone Mountain. 770-962-8396 x23

"Holiday on Thin Ice." 5 p.m. PushPush Theater's benefit performance of hilarious short plays for AIDS Survival Project. $16. 1123 Zonolite Rd. 404-892-7876 or www.pushpushtheater.com

14th Annual Service of Hope & Healing. 7 p.m. Put on by Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network at First Metropolitan Community Church. 1379 Tullie Road. 404-325-4143

MONDAY DEC. 2

NAMES Project Dedication. 10 a.m. –noon. Dedication in the morning of new national headquarters with speakers Cleve Jones, AIDS Memorial Quilt founder, and U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), plus a reading of names of those commemorated on the quilt. Quilt display all afternoon and evening; display continues 11 a.m. –7 p.m. through Dec. 6. 101 Krog St. 404-688-5500

Fulton County Health Department Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Quilt display and oral HIV testing provided by AID Atlanta staff. 101 Krog St. 404-688-5500

"The Fire This Time." 6 p.m. A film showing at Clark Atlanta University Science & Technology Lecture Hall followed by a panel discussion. Oral HIV testing will be conducted. 223 James P. Brawley Dr. SW 404-870-7760

TUESDAY DEC. 3

Free Orasure Testing. Dec. 3 and Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. AIDGwinnett office. 725 Scenic Highway in Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396 x23

NAMES Project Volunteer Open House & Training. 5-7 p.m. 101 Krog St. 404-688-5500

"AIDS at 21." 6-8 p.m. Film produced for Discovery Health Channel, hosted by AID Atlanta African-American Gay Outreach. Panel discussion after film. Auburn Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Ave. 404-870-7740

WEDNESDAY DEC. 4

Morehouse speaker. 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. A television talk show taping and guest speaker at Morehouse School of Medicine. 720 Westview Drive. 404-870-7760

"Safe Sex is No Laughing Matter." 7 p.m-8:30 p.m. Stand up comedy and safe sex presentation put on by Center for AIDS & Humanity and Positive Impact. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-589-9040

THURSDAY DEC. 5

"Live and Let Live: Discrimination & Stigma in the Age of AIDS." 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Town hall presentation and discussion including disclosure of HIV status and legal rights of people living with HIV. Led by Center for AIDS & Humanity, Our Common Welfare and AIDS Legal Project. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

SATURDAY DEC. 7

Hispanic Outreach. 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. AID Atlanta offers free Orasure testing in Lindbergh Plaza. 2581 Piedmont Rd. 404-870-7767

HIV Testing, Hepatitis A&B Vaccinations & Flu shots. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. AID Atlanta Street Outreach in Ansley Mall with Fulton County Health Department. 1544 Piedmont Ave. 404-870-7760

"Healthy Choices=Healthy Lives." 10 a.m.–1 p.m. To assist HIV-positive individuals in executing living wills and durable medical powers of attorney. Center for AIDS & Humanity. 159 Ralph McGill, 404-874-7926

Beautiful Body, Beautiful Soul. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. HIV prevention for young adults and parents in faith-based community. AID Altanta Hispanic Outreach. The Cathedral of Christ the King, 2699 Peachtree Rd. 404-870-7767

local news

Good Friends ball benefits women's causes

Event helps cancer group, health clinic, Charis Circle

Editor's note: Every week throughout the holiday season, Southern Voice highlights a charity organization that lends a hand to gay people and embodies the spirit of giving. E-mail editor@sovo.com with suggestions for future profiles.

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Marlene Johnson found out about the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative years ago because one of her friends, Linda McGehee, had a hand in founding the nonprofit agency that provides education, advocacy and services for lesbians with cancer.

But Johnson never thought she would need ALCI's services until this year, when one of her very good friends fell extremely ill with cancer.

Sara Schmidlin refused to be taken to a hospice for care. Schmidlin preferred to remain in the comfort of her own home, Johnson said.

As Schmidlin's condition worsened, her friends and family could not meet all of her needs.

That's when Johnson called ALCI.

"ALCI responded immediately. They stepped in at a really hard time and did it really, really well," she said.

With ALCI's assistance, Schmidlin was able to stay at home all the way up to the week before she died, Johnson said.

ALCI volunteers went grocery shopping for Schmidlin, cleaned her house, cared for her pets and visited with Schmidlin during her last days.

When she had no option but to go to a hospice, an ALCI volunteer rode with Johnson and Schmidlin to the hospice and got all the supplies necessary for her stay. Linda Ellis, executive director of ALCI, was by her side when she died, Johnson said.

"And it didn't stop there," she said. "They came and helped me clean her house, sort through her things and find a home for her pets. They were just remarkable."

Since the immediate aftermath of her friend's death, Johnson attends ACLI support groups that are helpful because of the understanding attitude of ALCI's volunteers, she said.

"What I really like about it is that it's okay to be where you are — they don't try to push you," she said. "They accept you where you are and support what it is you need, not what they think you need."

To provide these direct services and resources that Johnson never thought she would need to use, ALCI relies on the benevolence of individual, foundation and corporate donors in addition to dedicated volunteers.

HELPING OUT

Good Friends for Good Causes, an annual dance benefit at which long-lost friends reconnect and new romances are rumored to bud, stepped up to the plate for ALCI a few years ago.

The regional event was the brainchild of three women in 1992, according to Dixon Taylor, one of the event founders.

"Back then, we were trying to get all of our friends who we hadn't seen to get together at least once a year, and have a dance to catch up," Taylor said.

Over the years, attendees have become younger and more plentiful, averaging in age from 30-40 and increasing in numbers from 350 people in 1992 to more than 700 people last year, Taylor said.

In keeping with the times, the musical selection for this year's dance is split between a live big band, the Laigh Langley Band, and DJ Libby Stafford, Taylor said.

Though the dance serves mainly a social purpose, it doubles as a benefit for women's causes.

ALCI, Charis Circle and the Feminist Women's Health Center all stand to benefit from this year's Good Friends for Good Causes Holiday Ball at the Sheraton in Buckhead.

Last year, ALCI and Charis received $10,000 each from the fund-raiser, said Shelly Robbins, co-chair of the event. Since its inception, Good Friends has raised $156,450 for women's charities.

Marlene Johnson found support at the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative to help her friend, Sara Schmidlin, remain at home as she battled cancer. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

MORE INFO

Good Friends for Good Causes Holiday Ball
Dec. 6, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Sheraton Buckhead
3405 Lenox Road
$35 students and seniors (62 and older)
$55 general admission
www.gf4gc.com

Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative
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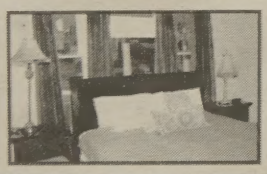

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community calendar

ATHENS

SATURDAY NOV. 30

GLBT TEEN GROUP. 2 pm. Presbyterian student center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

MONDAY DEC. 2

LAMBDA ALLIANCE. 7 pm. UGA's LGBT student organization. Homo for the holidays. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

ATLANTA

SATURDAY NOV. 30

ARTISTS MARKET. 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

FRONT RUNNERS. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

HOTLANTA BASKETBALL. Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

SUNDAY DEC. 1

20-SOMETHING. 6:30 pm. For persons 21-30. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA HEAT. 2-4 pm. Women's Rugby. Walden Middle School. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

MY BROTHAZ KEEPER. 6:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, bisexual and questioning men of African heritage, 25-. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 5th floor. 404-978-1268, ext. 1945

SOUTHEAST GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION. Monthly meeting. 770-662-9510

MONDAY DEC. 2

AIDGWINNETT & POSITIVE PEACHES. 7:30 pm. PWA & family/friends/partners/volunteers support group. Rockdale Hospital, 1412 Milestead Ave., Conyers. First level in Birthing Center. 770-356-5645

BUTCH IDENTIFYING LESBIANS ONLY. 6:30 pm. Lesbian Sexuality Series. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500 or www.aglc.org

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

HOTLANTA SQUARES. High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

TUESDAY DEC. 3

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Survivors support group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS. 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

ATLANTA PLAYLAB. 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK. 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

GEORGIA DYKES ON BIKES. 7 pm. No rules. No drama, Freedom to be. Cowtippers, GeorgiaDOB@aol.com or www.georgia.dykesonbikes.org

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS. 4:30 pm.-7 pm. Urban Body Fitness. www.aidatlanta.org

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

WEDNESDAY DEC. 4

ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE. Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

FRONT RUNNERS. 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

KENNESAW STATE ALLIANCE. 3:30-4:30 pm. Gay, lesbian, straight alliance. SS227, ksuglsa2002@yahoo.com

PERSONS WITH AIDS (PWA) SUPPORT GROUP. 7:30-9 pm. 725 Lawrenceville Highway. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

RAINBOW CENTER SUPPORT GROUP. 8-9:30 pm. For Lesbians, bisexual women, and questioning women. 743 Virginia. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

RAINBOW HOME TEAS. Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104.

RAINBOW HOME BENEFIT. 5-10:30 pm. Gringos Mexican Cantina donates 20 percent of dining profit. 1238 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-6926

TEEN GROUP. Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP. 7:15 pm. Discussing "Death Comes as Epiphany." For January, "Bee Season." Charis Books and More. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

THURSDAY DEC. 5

AEN HOLIDAY PARTY. 6-8 pm. Red Chair. 550-C Amsterdam Ave. www.aen.org

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals 7:30 – 10 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY. Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

BINGO NIGHT. 8-10 pm. Joe's on Juniper to benefit CHRIS Rainbow Home. 404-875-6634

BOYTALK. 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

CHARIS CIRCLE. 7:30 pm. Finding your authentic inner self with Susanne F. Fincher. Charis Books and More. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA. 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS LUNCH. Noon. Community leaders discuss events and information. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. First floor. 404-523-7500

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

GEORGIA LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS. 7 pm. Park Tavern, 10th and Monroe at Piedmont Park. 770-521-8315. www.lcrga.com

LATINO GROUP. 6:30-8 pm. LGBTQ, ages 18-24. YouthPride, 404-378-6620

LESBIAN AVENGERS. 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

LESBIAN READING GROUP. 404-467-4278

GUYTALK. 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

PEOPLE OF COLOR COMMUNITY NETWORK. 7-9 pm. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

SAFE HARBOR. 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

WOMYN'S GROUP. Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

FRIDAY DEC. 6

THE AGENDA Midnight. Gay television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT. 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

GOOD FRIENDS FOR GOOD CAUSES HOLIDAY BALL. 9 pm.-1 am. Sheraton Buckhead, 3405 Lenox Rd. 404-688-2524

HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

LATINO GROUP. Group for GLBTQ Latinos. 7-9 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

MACON

FRIDAY DEC. 6

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave.

To add a listing, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com,** call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance

local news

Trans victims honored

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Despite rain, about 80 people — twice as many as last year — gathered on the steps of the state capitol Nov. 20 to remember people murdered because of their real or perceived gender identity, said Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group.

"It was an emotional evening," she said.

The National Day of Remembrance memorial candlelight service lasted about 90 minutes. During the service, organizers read aloud the names of the 27 people reportedly killed in the last year because of their gender identity.

Toni Collins, secretary of LaGender, Inc. sang a spiritual song, Jesse McNutly played taps, and several people spoke.

Helms, Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, and Sgt, Connie Locke, the Atlanta Police Department's gay liaison officer, all stood behind the podium.

Helms said she was "thrilled" to hear state Sen.- elect Sam Zamarripa (D-Atlanta) speak.

The Day of Remembrance is coordinated by the Remember Our Dead Project, an online transgender community dedicated to changing what it calls a pattern of ignoring or forgetting murders based on gender identity.

State Senator-elect **Sam Zamarripa** (D-Atlanta) joined about 80 people on Nov. 20 for a vigil honoring those killed because of their gender identity. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

Gay Republicans appointed to leadership class

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The board of advisors for the Coverdell Leadership Institute recently released a list of 16 people that made the cut from more than 100 nominees to be in the Republican institute's class of 2003.

Marc Yeager and Mansell McCord, both gay men active in Republican politics, are among the class members who will learn how to become more effective community leaders and political activists.

"It is certainly a good thing that two out of the 16 members of the class are openly gay," McCord said. "I think it is indicative of the receptiveness of the Republican Party in Georgia to the gay community."

Each selected individual met the same criteria, said Susan S. Weiner, executive director of the Coverdell Leadership Institute.

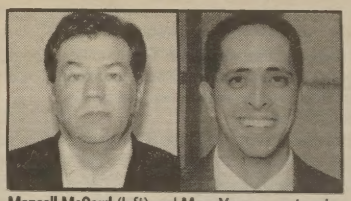
"There are basically three [criteria]: professional success, community involvement and political involvement," Weiner said.

Sexual orientation did not factor into the selection process, she said.

State Rep.-elect Jill Chambers (R-Atlanta) nominated Yeager for the post.

"I hope to gain the greater ability to present the Republican values to communities within Georgia that haven't been reached out to by the Republican Party," Yeager said.

Yeager currently serves as president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, and is an active member of both the Fulton and DeKalb County Republicans. He is a former Georgia Equality board member and has chaired his church's outreach and Habitat for Humanity projects.



Mansell McCord (left) and **Marc Yeager**, past and current presidents of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, are set to train at the Coverdell Leadership Institute.

Yeager's involvement in the Republican Party works in two directions, he said.

"Not only will the gay community have a greater understanding of Republican values, but also the influence of having someone who is Republican and gay within the party will build a level of relationship that will increase acceptance of gays within the party," Yeager said.

Mansell McCord, a past president of Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, sits on the Georgia Republican Party Executive Committee, representing the 5th congressional district. His fellow members of the 5th district executive committee signed his letter of recommendation for the course, McCord said.

"The Coverdell Institute is very much like a political fraternity," McCord said. "It is a great way of building political contacts."

Weiner said that upon graduation from the nine-month course, the institute expects "continued activism and participation in the political process."

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editorial

It's not our AIDS fight

So long as we're the only ones still paying attention to **gay victims** of this epidemic, global AIDS activists will have to forgive us for a little **international myopia**.

By CHRIS CRAIN

"ANY SUGGESTIONS of what we might do to challenge this complacency?"

That was the clarion call sent out in an e-mail blast last week by Lori Heise, who heads up the Global Campaign for Microbicides, one of a number of AIDS lobby groups focused on fighting the epidemic in non-industrialized nations around the world.

The "breathtaking" complacency toward AIDS, according to Heise, isn't on Capital Hill, or in the Bush White House, or in the halls of the United Nations. The complacency is right here at Southern Voice, where I expressed pessimism about publishing an opinion column submitted by her that calls for more U.S. funding in the fight against AIDS in other parts of the world.

In a short response to her submission, I acknowledged the tremendous interest our readers take in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but I also pointed out that, as gay newspapers, we have a particular focus, and additional U.S. funding for the fight against AIDS abroad was not a coverage priority.

Heise never responded to me, but instead sent out an Internet alert, accusing me of "distancing" the gay community from the global scourge of AIDS.

On Dec. 1, we mark World AIDS Day for the 21st time, a depressing sign of adulthood for the fight against a disease that our science cannot seem to cure and an epidemic we cannot seem to slow.

And it's about time, after 21 years, that AIDS activists like Heise finally "grow up," and stop asking what the gay community can do for her, but what she and activists like her can do for us.

LESBIANS AND GAY MEN HAVE LONG labored in the fight against AIDS in numbers far beyond our proportion of the populace. We cared when nobody else did — when the media and the government turned a blind eye — because we saw our own dying.

Even today, two decades later, as more new HIV transmissions in this country involve heterosexuals, most HIV/AIDS organizations are still run and staffed largely by gays, and we disproportionately donate funds and volunteer time to AIDS Walks and AIDS Rides, to hospices and delivering meals to shut-ins.

We gave at the office, and at our homes, at our churches, and of our lives. And we're still giving, though in depressingly smaller numbers.

But ever since the advent of protease inhibitors and a drug "cocktail" that has dramatically cut down the numbers of Americans — especially gay Americans — who are dying from AIDS, the gay angle isn't sexy anymore. Instead, the focus of media and government policymakers has shifted to the epidemic's deadly swath through other parts of the world, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

On the one hand, this new attention is justified and long overdue. Entire societies are at risk, and the potential loss in human life in these undeveloped countries is staggering.

But does that mean, on the other hand, that the gay community should take this on as our battle, too, splitting our own focus overseas?

Although cultural sensitivities — meaning homophobia — prevent the gathering of precise statistics, heterosexual sex is the means of transmission for about 70 percent of new HIV infections worldwide, according to Neff Walker, senior epidemiologist at UNAIDS; only 5 percent is being transmitted through men having sex with men.

Probably also due to anti-gay prejudices at home and abroad, the U.N. does not even track how the means of transmission varies by region of the world. But taking into account the much larger percentage of new infections from gay sex in the United States and other portions of the industrialized world, that means that HIV and AIDS have a much smaller impact on gays outside of Europe and the U.S.

And yet these global AIDS organizations would have us direct a portion of our limited resources, already overcommitted to the fight against AIDS at home, to lobby for greater funding for the fight against AIDS abroad.

Complicating matters politically, the increased commitment of funds by the U.S. government in the global fight against AIDS has been used, by conservatives in Congress like Jesse Helms and their allies in the Bush administration, to justify "flat funding" for Ryan White and domestic AIDS spending.

LET'S COMPARE RESPONSIBILITIES here. Does the gay community really owe further support and lobbying for the worthy goal of increased U.S. funding for the fight against the spread of AIDS among heterosexuals abroad?

Or do these global AIDS activists owe greater attention to the welfare of gays affected by the epidemic, whether in industrialized nations or elsewhere?

After all, much of this "global AIDS funding" goes to repressive governments that make no effort to educate or prevent transmission of the virus through gay sex, which oftentimes is violently prosecuted. Homosexuality is considered a taboo, and in many cases, a distinctly Western phenomenon.

U.N. efforts to even acknowledge — much less address — gay victims of HIV and AIDS have been hamstrung by an evil alliance of oppressive Islamic governments abroad and conservative Christian activists here in the U.S., with some help from their friends in the Bush administration.

So where is the outcry from the Global Campaign for Microbicides, and like-minded groups, against the "breathtaking complacency" of the United Nations and other international bodies, who allow religious bigots to veto basic public health measures in the global fight against AIDS?

When is the last time that the Global Campaign for Microbicides and its ilk actually lifted a finger toward using AIDS-related dollars as tools to pressure these governments to include basic safe sex information relating to homosexual sex?

A review of the strategy documents on the Global Campaign's Web site (www.global-campaign.org) is instructive. The word "gay" appears frequently, usually in reference to allies that should be called upon to assist in their fight — hence the op-ed submission to Southern Voice and other gay papers.

To paraphrase Janet Jackson, "What have they done for us lately?"

So long as those of us in the gay community are the only ones still paying attention to the present and future gay victims of this epidemic, the good folks at the Global Campaign for Microbicides will have to forgive us for a little international myopia.

@ **Chris Crain** is executive editor of the Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@sovo.com.

letters

No place for racism

To the Editor:

I would suggest that Dorinda Henry, who wrote the horribly racist viewpoint column in the Oct 15 issue ("Let's get off the slave block," op-ed), remove her blinders so that she might see the landscape more clearly. Perhaps then, she will find the ability to calm down.

I would also suggest to the editors that they resist printing such racist views in the future. This kind of racist commentary does not provide anyone, nor any group, any benefit.

DAVID STANLEY
Stone Mountain, Ga.

Even the ACLU sees free speech limits

To the Editor:

William Connors raises a good question ("Free speech for some, but not for all?" letter, Oct. 25), wondering why Beth Littrell of the American Civil Liberties Union claimed that the Lakeside High School principal violated the students' freedom of speech rights when he removed National Coming Out Day posters from the school, but that Danny Buggs' speech when talking to an assembly of students was inappropriate and violated the separation of church and state. ("DeKalb schools lack gay-specific policies," news, Oct. 18).

The answer is that "freedom of speech" is not absolute. Over the years, the courts have ruled that there are limits to freedom of speech. For instance, one line that you cannot cross is to shout "fire" in a crowded theater. Another line that limits your speech is that you cannot slander or libel someone.

A third line limiting free speech is that public officials cannot use public facilities or public funds to proselytize. This is the church-state line Mr. Buggs allegedly crossed when he spoke to the high school students, invoking his own religious beliefs during the school day, at school facilities while on the school payroll.

In this instance his freedom of speech rights crossed the separation of church state limitations, and the speech was inappropriate.

So the ACLU's Beth Littrell got it right in distinguishing between the students' free speech rights and Buggs' inappropriate speech. I hope this clarifies the issue.

DON GEORGE
Atlanta

Editor's note: The letter writer is an at-large member of the ACLU national board.

Don't ignore Orlando

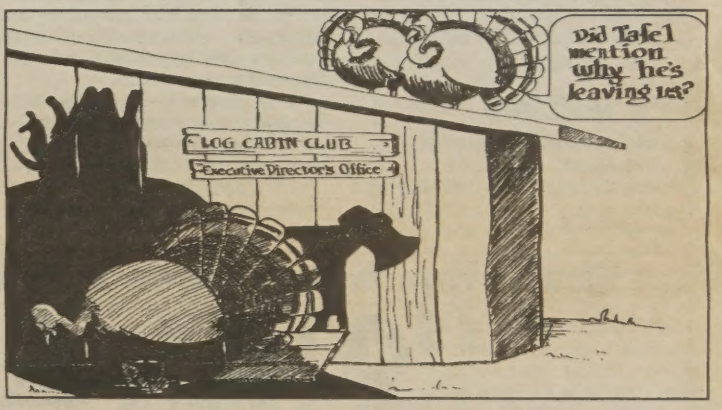
To the Editor:

I have been surprised and disappointed to see the gay press completely ignore the recent vote by the Orlando city council to add sexual orientation to its human rights ordinance. This is a very important vote by the council which was hard fought.

The radical religious right was out in force against it, particularly Coral Ridge Ministries, the rabidly anti-gay televangelism crusade. The council could easily have not chosen to extend protection to gays but they did so in any case.

Their courage is to be commended — and reported — in the gay press.

CARL WRIGHT
Gainesboro, Tenn.



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

SWEET 2W2Y
CONVIVIALITY REIGNS AS OUR EUPEPTIC FRIENDS DIGEST THE THANKSGIVING TOFURKEY.
11/20
403
©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL
IT LOOKS LIKE JASPER JOHNS.
IT'S A GIRL! LOOK, HERE'S HER PROFILE, AND HERE ARE HER LITTLE HANDS. CAN YOU SEE NOW?
JUST SAY YES, HARRIET.
HOW COME YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE SEX? AREN'T YOU AFRAID IT'LL LIMIT YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHO THE BABY IS?
BELIEVE ME, IN THIS HOUSE, WE HAVE VERY FEW PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT WHAT A GIRL IS.
ding dong!
HI, BABY. HOW WAS YOUR FAMILY?
THE USUAL.
HI, JASMINE. HI, JONAS.
GRAMPA CALLED ME A GIRLY BOY. BUT NOT IN A NICE WAY.
AHH. FORGET HIM.
LISTEN, AN OWL FLEW BY A WHILE AGO AND DROPPED THIS OFF FOR YOU.
A NIMROD 2000?
YOU'RE TAKING THIS WHOLE LOIS AND JASMINE THING PRETTY WELL. ARE THEY SERIOUS?
HAS LOIS EVER BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING BUT HER OWN PLEASURE?
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T LEAVE JONAS IN THE LURCH.
I KNOW!! THAT'S WHY I BROKE THINGS OFF WITH JASMINE. I DIDN'T FEEL READY TO HAVE A KID. NOW HE'S HERE ALL THE TIME, AND LOIS IS THE ONE GETTING LAID.
Y'KNOW, JASMINE'S A GREAT PARENT. SHE DOESN'T NEED HELP FROM YOU OR LOIS OR ANYBODY ELSE. JUST BECAUSE YOU SLEEP WITH SOMEONE DOESN'T MEAN YOU WANT THEM TO RAISE YOUR KID.
BUT... WHAT IF THEY'RE THE FATHER?
STUART, IS THIS INSECURITY GOING TO LAST THE ENTIRE NINE MONTHS, OR IS IT LIKE, FOR LIFE?
FOR LIFE? I HOPE SO.
HOW SWEET. CAN I THROW RICE?
A SPIN-OFF OF THE NBS TO JUDITH LEVINE
IS THAT THE FAMOUS VIBRATING BROOM?
YEAH, BUT IT DIDN'T DO MUCH FOR ME.

WWW.DykesToWatchOutFor.net

viewpoint PAULA MARTINAC

'No' means 'no,' regardless of gender, or the specific act involved, or level of actual violence. But is 'rape' specifically a male-on-female attack?

Is there such a thing as lesbian rape?

WHENEVER WE HEAR THE TERM "rape," it's usually in the context of a man forcing sex on a woman — or on another man, as in the recent news story about a servant of Prince Charles allegedly raping a valet employed by Princess Diana.

What we rarely hear about is when women force sex on other women. In those instances, we're not even sure we should call it "rape."

I'm not talking about the rapes that occur in women's prisons, a very real but different problem that has been luridly trivialized by Hollywood B-movies with titles like "Caged Women." Instead, I'm referring to a kind of sexual violation that may be more common: rapes within lesbian relationships or in the context of lesbian dating.

At first glance, "lesbian rape" seems like an oxymoron. The murders committed by the Aileen Wuornoses of the world always seem so shocking because women are more often the victims in the headlines, not the perpetrators.

In addition, many of us harbor an idealized vision of "lesbian nation," in which women love and support each other and all sexual contact between them is beautiful and empowering. The concept of "women-only space" — conceived in the '70s and still very much a part of cultural institutions like the annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival — was designed to provide safe places in which women could move freely, even shed their clothes, without male interference or violence.

Fear of male violence is, in fact, something that influences many of our most mundane decisions every day, like which street to walk on, or where to park the car.

LESBIANS PERPETRATING SEXUAL violence on each other, then, seems like something to brush aside as a distasteful anomaly. Who would do that to a "sister"?

It took several decades for us to come to terms with the fact that domestic violence can and does occur within lesbian relationships. Today, however, our antiviolence programs, which were set up to deal with lesbian and gay bias crimes, provide programs and counseling to assist the victims of same-sex domestic violence.

Our recognition that forced sex between women also takes place has been much slower.

There's been a hesitance to call this kind of sexual assault "rape," a term many feminists — right along with law enforcement and social services — tend to reserve specifically for unwanted penetration by a penis.

A lesbian feminist friend of mine once reprimanded me sharply for labeling forced woman-on-woman sex "rape." Doing so, she maintained, diminished the fact that male rape of women is one of the most powerful weapons the patriarchy wields to keep women frightened and in their place.

My friend's point of view, holds a lot of truth. What's problematic, however, is viewing forced lesbian sex as a lesser offense that doesn't hurt as much or have as devastating consequences.

Because of this thinking, many survivors of same-sex sexual assault simply brush off their experiences as not worth complaining about.

WHEN SOCIOLOGIST LORI B. GIRSHICK did a study of lesbian rape, she found that an alarming number of her 70 respondents were speaking for the first time about incidents that had happened 10 to 30 years in the past.

Lesbian survivors are just now slowly coming forward, she asserts, because there's been more research bringing the topic to light — and giving it a name.

Still, we're just at the beginning of the process of dealing with the issue. Although an online search for the term "lesbian rape" turned up more than 40,000 hits, most of them were links to straight male porn sites that promised "sexy" rape stories and videos. Only a few sites addressed the specific concerns of lesbians who are raped by men, and even fewer provided resources for lesbians who've been raped by female dates or partners.

Some good information does exist, but we need much more, so that survivors of lesbian rape will know they don't have to keep silent and shoulder the experience alone.

MORE INFO

San Francisco Women Against Rape
www.sfwar.org
New York City Gay & Lesbian Antiviolence Project
www.avp.org

Paula Martinac is an author and syndicated writer and can be reached at PMcolumn@aol.com.

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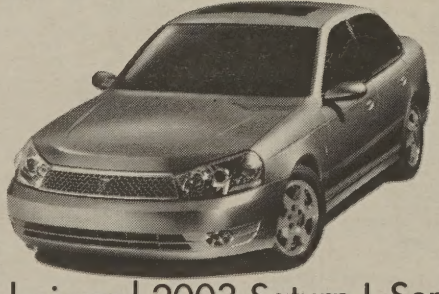

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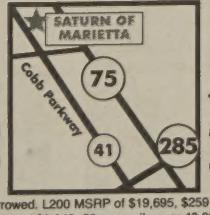

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15:41

viewpoint STEPHEN FALLON

World AIDS Day brings another round of 'alarming' safe sex messages that no one is paying attention to.

Safe sex message drones on and on

ISN'T WORLD AIDS DAY GETTING A little irrelevant? After two decades, who wants to pull the dusty red ribbon out of the sock drawer, and pretend still to be concerned about HIV?

AIDS is in retreat. Less than 9,000 Americans died of AIDS related conditions last year, compared to a peak of 51,000 in 1995. Medicines are working better, extending lives.

Yet this Dec. 1, armies of HIV prevention workers will be out at health fairs, distributing those dull pamphlets again. I mean we get it already, don't we? "HIV bad, condoms good." Duh.

While most of the nation will yawn, this year's ideologically driven audit of all federally funded HIV prevention programs is asking a disturbing question: Do these programs make any difference? Do people even pay attention anymore to bland drone of prevention messages?

IN AMERICA, WE SEEM TO PUT FAITH in hysterical yet monotonous health warnings. Even our fire trucks and ambulances are becoming too insistent. Gone are the quaint single light, mono-siren ambulances. Now emergency vehicles scream for our attention with strobe taillights and multiple warbling sirens. The result? The din becomes unimpressive background noise.

Similarly, people tune out when well-intentioned educators beat the same drum of safer sex advice year after year. I thought about all of this while waiting for a flight in Seoul, Korea airport a few weeks ago. The Incheon International airport is as quiet as a cathedral. Courtesy carts don't bleep endlessly. Instead, drivers pass silently, tooting a little horn only when it's needed.

So what's the point of the annoying beeping? Our penchant for warning lights, sirens and scary health slogans often mistakes volume with urgency. Repetition doesn't equal impact, even on World AIDS Day.

This isn't to say that our concerns are groundless. We're far from finished with AIDS. Despite constant medical innovation, HIV is rapidly mutating to get around our best drugs. In 1996, only one-in-40 newly infected patients had caught a version of HIV that was already resistant to two classes of our medicines. By 2000, this resistance had spread to one-in-seven.

The second wave of HIV in the gay community has turned out to be less a tidal wave than a smart bomb, homing in on the most vulnerable members of our population.

Some depressed gay men become sexual compulsives. Gay men who use methamphetamines (a.k.a. "crystal," "Tina") are also much more likely to end up with HIV.

And younger gay men often lack negotiation skills to stick to safer sex plans. Last year's large surveys found that 3 percent of white gay men, 7 percent of Hispanic, and 14 percent of African American were already HIV infected by age 30.

Other sexually transmitted diseases also amplify the risk of both passing and acquiring HIV. This is bad news because U.S. syphilis cases rebounded last year. Where are the alarms? A nationwide survey in this month's American Journal of Public Health finds that even doctors with high rosters of STD infected clients screen less than one-fifth of the male patients they see.

WORLD AIDS DAY REMAINS RELEVANT because HIV continues to cut down gay men. HIV prevention workers shouldn't pack up their bags, but instead need to adapt to the changing landscape, finding new ways to deliver messages highlighting HIV's continued threat.

Monotonous lectures are irritating, but silence kills too. Walking the main streets in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last month I was aghast to see open holes in the sidewalk where work crews were planning to perform maintenance. Apparently, the city believed that every person would see the holes in time. The next day, I read about grieving parents whose toddler died by stumbling into one of these holes. A simple plastic saw horse could have prevented that tragedy.

We can't risk letting anyone fall into the holes of misinformation about HIV.

This year World AIDS Day will again offer sobering reminders of our lost friends. Hearing those tales, at least a few gay men will then think twice before taking a risk. That's why we commemorate World AIDS Day.

@ **Stephen Fallon**, Ph.D., is the president of a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at **sfallon@skills4.org**.

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on the record

"Obviously Bob Dylan is gay if he's not interested in me. I mean, look at me! Who would have guessed that Dylan is a fag?"

__Jewel__, telling the audience during a concert in Newark, N.J., about a dream she had in which Bob Dylan appeared but did not flirt with her (New York Post, Nov. 16)

"They don't like me to air this on television. But I don't care what they like! I am not politically correct! God's given me power to cast out devils and if you are a homosexual, I can deliver you! And I can set you free! Homosexuality is not another lifestyle. It's a demon spirit."

American evangelist R.W. Schambach, whose "Power Today" TV program was sanctioned by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council for claiming that gays are possessed by the devil (Reuters, Nov. 18)

"You know I'm a little bit different to what most people would consider being an Australian male. That doesn't make me gay. It's the most flattering thing that anyone can ever say because if someone wants to label you or claim you as part of a minority group, it means you must have some strength in your character, or in what you do."

Aussie Olympic swimmer __Ian Thorpe__, on rumors about his sexual orientation (News.com.au, Nov. 18)

"It's perfectly cool now to be straight and have an interest in Armani fashion or pearl jewelry or Kylie Minogue, and why shouldn't it be?"

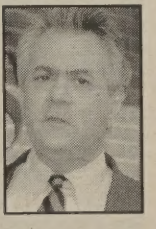
Sydney Star Observer editor Marcus O'Donnell, on Ian Thorpe's declaration of heterosexuality (News.com.au, Nov. 18)

"I felt like I had to point out the hypocrisy. If you talk about being gay, even if you're celibate, that gets you in trouble. But if you're actually having sex and covering your bases, you don't have to worry about a thing."

Gavan Meehan, who was dismissed from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass., for being openly gay, and then accused two closeted seminarians of having sex in a department store dressing room (Boston Globe, Nov. 25)

"The U.S. military appears to be engaged in a new form of escalation — going to greater heights of stupidity in administering the anti-gay policy, from the inadequacies of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell', we have progressed to the greater foolishness of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Translate.'"

Gay Congressman __Barney Frank__ (D-Mass.), in response to the Army's discharge of nine gay linguists, including six trained in Arabic (Nov. 14)



"While we down under debate Australian support for any United States-led war on terror, I would be ever so grateful if an American politician would explain why the Taliban's persecution of women is considered barbaric, yet persecution of gay military personnel by your government is deemed quite acceptable."

Mike Leclerc, of Sydney, Australia, in a letter to the editor responding to an article about the Army's decision to discharge nine linguists, including six trained in Arabic, under "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (New York Times, Nov. 18)

action! alert

Anti-smoking ads target gays

Campaign a response to Big Tobacco's 'Project SCUM'

By MIKE FLEMING

IN RESPONSE TO TOBACCO COMPAnies that seek to hook gays on smoking, the American Legacy Foundation last week kicked off a national ad campaign to alert gay smokers to the plan.

"Our 'Project SCUM Truth' ad forces one of the leading tobacco manufacturers to come clean with regard to targeting gay consumers," said Cheryl Healton, president and CEO of the foundation, an independent organization created by the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between tobacco companies and a coalition of state attorneys general.

The Master Settlement Agreement also allowed the American Lung Association to acquire an internal memo from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company about Project SCUM, or Sub Culture Urban Marketing. The project identifies its targets as "gays, foreigners, Generation X and street people."

"Project SCUM is yet another disturbing example of how the tobacco industry markets its addictive and lethal products," Healton said.

The new ads are a direct response to Project SCUM, she said.

R.J. Reynolds officials could not be reached for comment by press time.

HEALTON UNVEILED THE FIRST television ad Nov. 18 at a daylong summit hosted by the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking & Health. The ad began airing last week on the BET, MTV and WB networks.

The ad features a teen and a homeless person reading the memo that describes Project SCUM and its targets.

A Web site on Project SCUM went live Nov. 26 highlighting the ad campaign and tobacco industry goals. Visitors can download fact sheets, view the TV ads and chat with other visitors.

"This outrageous behavior towards the GLBT community is particularly disturbing because of the disproportionately high rates of smoking among this population," Healton said.

Nearly 60 percent of gay youth smoke cigarettes compared to only 30 percent of straight adolescents; some 50 percent more gay men and lesbians smoke than their heterosexual counterparts, according to the foundation.

Since the creation of the American Legacy Foundation, gays have been one of six "priority populations" for the group to reach. The ad campaign is part of the billions in tobacco dollars allocated by the foundation aimed specifically at gay smokers and gay youth.

AND TOBACCO COMPANIES DON'T JUST target gays with ad campaigns, said Bob Gordon, vice president of the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking & Health.

An ad that began airing last week on major television networks features a teenager and a homeless man reading an internal document by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company that targets gays and the homeless with the company's smoking message. A print version hits gay publications in about a month.

Companies like R.J. Reynolds and Phillip Morris have become big-dollar supporters of gay causes like AIDS charities, and some sponsor smoking areas at galas and dinners for civil rights organizations, Gordon said.

Gordon's coalition directly lobbies gay organizations not to accept sponsorships from tobacco companies who "talk out of both sides of their mouths," he said.

"These same tobacco companies also fund political figures like anti-gay U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms," he said. "So gay smoking dollars are going in a vicious circle from us to fund anti-gay legislation."

In an effort to directly challenge those efforts and put dollars into gay issues, ALF also plans a series of print ads in gay publications that begin next month or early January.

The group also created a $21 million grants program for gay organizations and other "priority populations."

Some of the biggest grants went to the Fenway Institute in Massachusetts for a gay smokers intervention program, a tobacco awareness program at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center in California and a national media campaign at the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer in Washington.

ACTION! INFO

American Legacy Foundation
1001 G Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
202-454-5555
www.americanlegacy.org
www.ProjectScum.org

Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking & Health
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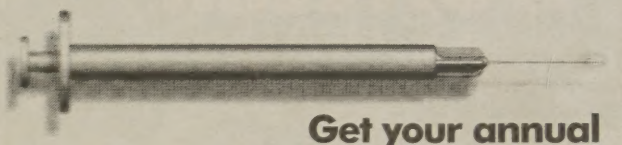

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GRIEF REVISITED: Washington adds must-see stop for tourists at Holocaust Museum with new gay exhibit. **Page 49**

MASTER DJ: Top dance guru **Paul Oakenfold** releases new CD with few hits, many misses. **Page 35**

Right-left combo

In fight against the right wing, Dan Savage pulls no punches

By BRIAN MOYLAN

IT SEEMS THESE DAYS THAT THE all-news networks and most newspapers and political magazines are inundated with conservative political commentators calling gays horrible sinners who are going to hell and dragging the rest of Americans into the gutter.

Jerry Falwell is at the top of the list, last year trying to blame the Sept. 11 attacks on gays, pro-choice advocates and the ACLU. Well, the news media seems to have the same prejudice, but it's all the time.

"The media has a conservative bias," says Dan Savage, a gay author who writes "Savage Love," a syndicated weekly sex and relationship advice column aimed at a predominantly straight audience.

But isn't Savage wrong? Aren't those same conservatives always telling us that the media has a liberal bias?

"They are saying that, but they're lying," Savage says. "I think most people in the media lean left, so the conservatives scream and yell, and to compensate, the media hands them the microphone to prove that they don't have a liberal bias. Why should they stop making the charge when it gets them the microphone? It's become so pervasive that now the media has a conservative bias."

Savage's answer to those conservatives is his new book, "Skipping Towards Gomorrah: the Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America," a delightfully comic explosion of sin that will make the right wing squirm in its starched underwear.

The book finds Savage travelling the country to and find people to help him commit the traditional Christian "Seven Deadly Sins."

For those who failed Sunday school or haven't watched Brad Pitt in "Seven," those sins are greed, lust, sloth, gluttony, envy, pride and anger.

The book is not only a comment on how the right wing views the rest of America, but also a celebration of the little pleasures that make some people happy: gay sex, drugs, gambling and way too much food.

Savage sees this quest to squelch the right to happiness — no matter how we acquire it — as a violation of fundamental Constitutional rights.

"If we aren't free to pursue our own version of happiness, then the first two items on Jefferson's wish list are without meaning," he writes in the book. "Life and liberty do us no good if we can't employ them — or waste them — in the pursuit of those things that make us happy."

"Gomorrah" is not a guide book on how to break laws, cause anarchy and burn crosses. But it is a look at behaviors we engage in that are both legal (overeating) and illegal (smoking a little pot once in awhile) that don't cause society harm and make some people's lives worth living.

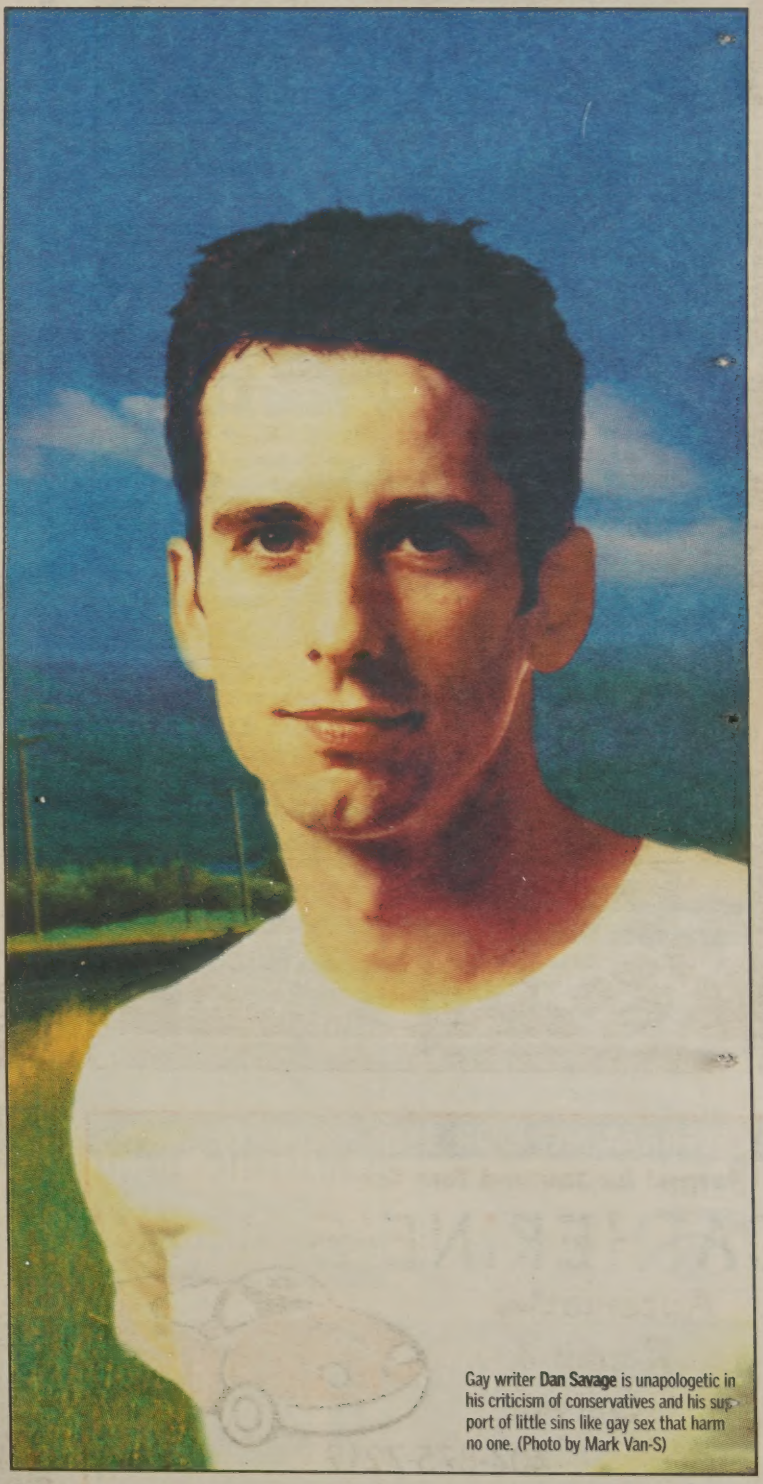
"I'm not telling people how to live ... " Savage says. "[Conservative author] Bill Bennet can live however he wants to live. Sinners don't try to impose their sins on the virtuous, but the virtuous are always trying to impose their virtues on me. I'm not telling them how to live by saying that they need to leave me alone."

Just as it's Savage's right to champion the causes on the left, he feels that conservatives have the right to their opinions — but should stop interfering in politics.

"They have the right to try to persuade us the way they want to. If they kept it just to that, I wouldn't be offended at all," he says. "They wouldn't be more offensive than my mother, who I listen to patiently and ignore. The problem is that they want to amend constitutions and pass laws to make us live how they want us to."

There should be laws and rules gov-

Please see **SAVAGE**, Page 45



Gay writer **Dan Savage** is unapologetic in his criticism of conservatives and his support of little sins like gay sex that harm no one. (Photo by Mark Van-S)

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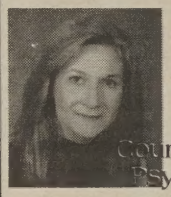

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television BRIAN MOYLAN

There are many discoveries to be made from some world-class programming scheduled on cable for **World AIDS Day**.

Complacency = death

IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME A documentary about AIDS hits the airwaves, the publicist assumes that the gay papers would be interested. Of course, the AIDS epidemic initially struck gay men in the 1980s, and some of the most prominent early appearances by gays and gay characters on television were due to AIDS.

But these days, an AIDS documentary alone isn't necessarily gay. We live in the post-"Ellen" age of "Will & Grace" and gay contestants on reality shows. Gay men need no longer be portrayed always as suffering martyrs at the hands of AIDS.

The focus of television programming has shifted away from gay men with AIDS toward gays as comedians and people who make the audience laugh instead of cry. And the focus of many gays has changed from surviving the AIDS epidemic to fighting for civil rights and accurate portrayals in the media.

At the beginning of the 21st century, AIDS no longer seemed like a "gay problem." The focus is now on minority populations, sub-Saharan Africans and heterosexuals infected with the virus. Lots of us may think we have better things to worry about than AIDS or viewing another AIDS documentary.

JUST IN TIME TO SHOCK US OUT OF our complacency is the Dec. 1 World AIDS Day commemoration and its triumvirate of programming on the new cable station Discovery Health.

A network by the people behind the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet, this station focuses entirely on health programming.

On Dec. 1, the Discovery Health channel will air three documentaries — "AIDS in the 21st Century," "Born with HIV: Little Warriors" and "AIDS at 21" — that look at different aspects of the epidemic.

"AIDS in the 21st Century" is the first full-length effort from Cable Positive, the cable and telecommunications industry's AIDS action organization. Cable Positive uses media connections to sponsor grants, make public service announcements and create documentaries.

The program begins with a non-gay focus, telling the story of a mother of two who acquired HIV from her ex-husband. She talks about the expansion of the virus into heterosexual communities still convinced that they aren't at risk.

It even mentions that the AIDS Memorial Quilt moved from San Francisco to Atlanta to be closer to the straight and minority demographics that are now infected.

The AIDS Quilt is criticized by its founder in 'AIDS in the 21st Century,' a cable show commemorating World AIDS Day next week.

BUT LONG ABOUT THE FIRST COMmercial break, our collective complacency becomes clear. Statistics show the staggering number of young gay men who missed the original onslaught of the virus and are now becoming infected at rates higher than seen in many years.

A look at the new phenomenon of "barebacking" also drove home the point that many gay men think that drug cocktails and technology will save us from a disease that is just as deadly and prevalent as ever.

Cleve Jones, who launched the AIDS Quilt, admits that he has become quite bitter as a result of this attitude and even shares an ambivalence towards the quilt, his life's work.

"It's just one more vastly expensive, time-consuming thing we did that didn't work," he says in the program.

The documentary brings home the idea that World AIDS Day is not only a chance to remember those who have died of AIDS, but also to do something to put an end to the disease. Just watching the programs is a step in the right direction.

MORE INFO

'AIDS in the 21st Century'
'Born with HIV'
'AIDS at 21'
Discovery Health Channel
Sunday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.

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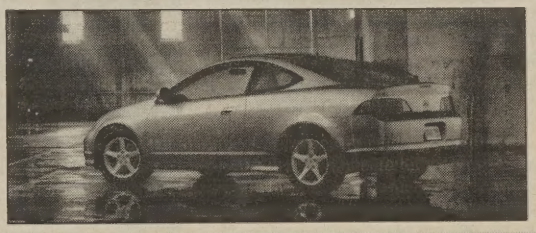

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Mixmeister **Paul Oakenfold** skips a beat with his new release, a blend of originals that may be **a little too intense.**

Into the 'Bunkka'

PAUL OAKENFOLD IS THE WORLD'S leading club DJ, sweeping audiences from London's trendy gay clubs to Ibiza's hot spots.

His fine sense for pop chart potential has made him one of the most requested remix producers. The spinmeister most recently turned Madonna's melodramatic "What It Feels Like For A Girl" into a whirling, sonic gay anthem with its climactic rises and edgy dance groove.

After creating music under various names, including his spellbinding remix classic "Tranceport" in 1998, Oakenfold finally felt comfortable enough to put out his own record — or perhaps he was simply feeling peer pressure after Moby turned his DJ fame into pop artist stardom.

The result is "Bunkka," an album with original songs that represent the Brit's musical taste and vision.

Released on Madonna's Maverick label, "Bunkka" is a bizarre blend of trance, rap and contemporary pop that painfully reminds people that Oakenfold might have been better off sticking to the sound board.

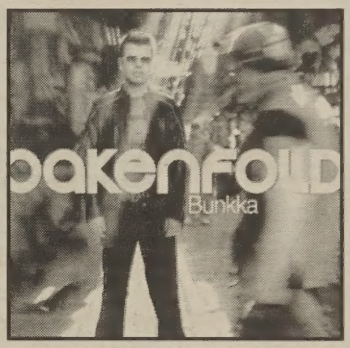
LONDON-BORN OAKENFOLD STARTed mixing when he was 16 years old, and he had his first experimental gigs at Covent Garden's popular basement bars in the late '70s.

Soon after that, he moved to New York where he familiarized himself with the emerging disco scene, which developed his passion for soulful house music.

Oakenfold is best known for his adoption of the Balearic DJ genre, which combines house, soul, Italian disco and alternative music. He imported this sun-ripened style from Ibiza, entertaining crowds at his weekly spins at Heaven, Spectrum and other London clubs in the late '80s.

"Bunkka" is quite a departure from his previous remix albums since it features the artist's own creations. By his own admission, Oakenfold is no singer.

To create this record, he gathered a genre-jumping mix of vocalists ranging from Jane's Addiction's Perry Ferrell and Shifty Shellshock of Los Angeles rock-rap band Crazy Town to rapper Ice Cube, Tricky and Canada's teen hipster Nelly Furtado. The record also opens doors for three young and upcoming vocalists: Carla Werner, Tiff Lacey and Emiliana Torrini.



DJ **Paul Oakenfold** left the singing to the pros on **'Bunkka,'** his new album of pop, rap and hip hop originals.

THE ALBUM STARTS OUT WITH "READY Steady Go," a high-velocity breakbeat tune with plenty of brass. "Southern Sun," with Carla Werner's vocals, is a synth-draped pop song drenched in Oakenfold's signature trance vibes.

"Hypnotized" and "Motion" feature a fusion of triphop textures with haunting female vocals. It's a formula that used to be a hip trip, but its overabundance has made it trivial and tedious.

The artist further drifts off his steady course by including hardcore rap and hiphop elements on the loud "Get Em Up" (featuring rapper Ice Cube) and the album's finale "The Harder They Come."

The latter is a failing duet between Nelly Furtado and Tricky, which drowns in a dissonant, overwhelming sample-based production.

The rhymes of rap-rocker Shifty Shellshock on the fun-filled "Starry Eyed Surprise" are a welcome exception with its laid-back, hip hop beats.

Aside from one or two potential hits, most songs on "Bunkka" are buried under Oakenfold's intense studio wizardry. The multiple layers of overproduced sampling, wild breakbeat jolting and mishmash of intense raps and uninspiring female chants do not live up to the hype that was created in anticipation of this record.

Oakenfold never used to skip a beat, but he might have missed a few on this album.

MORE INFO
'Bunkka'
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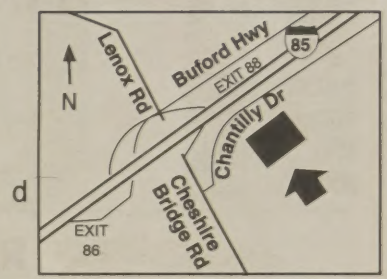

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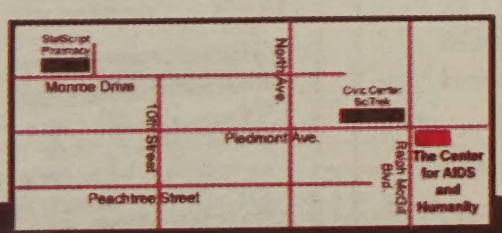

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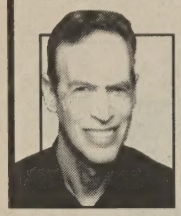


You can don your gay apparel, but if you're looking for **queer movies in December,** visit the video store.

December hopefuls

THE STUDIOS HAVE TWO RELEASE schedules for December, one for L.A. and New York, where most Academy voters live, and one for the rest of us.

Many anticipated award magnets are deemed too weak to compete with the crowd-pleasers that dominate the holiday box office.

"The Lord of the Rings" proved last year to be formidable in both departments and the second installment should follow suit. Otherwise there aren't many obvious blockbusters.

Gay audiences can look to Pedro Almodovar's new melodrama, but don't expect much from Rob Schneider's gender-bending role in "The Hot Chick."

Here are the films you'll read and hear about but probably not see here until next year: "About Schmidt," "Chicago," "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," "The Guys," "The Hours," "Intacto," "Love Liza," "Max," "Morvern Callar," "Narc," "Nicholas Nickleby," "The Pianist," "The Quiet American," "Sonny," "Spider," "Tully" and "25th Hour."

They sound more promising, on average, than this list, which all come to town next month:

In Pedro Almodovar's 'Talk to Her,' **Javier Camara** and **Dario Grandinetti** are two men who form a bond while the women they wait for are comatose in a clinic. (Photo courtesy Sony Pictures Classics)

DEC. 6:

"Analyze That": Gangster Robert De Niro is released from prison in the custody of his shrink (Billy Crystal), who has enough problems already.

"El Crimen del Padre Amaro": Gael Garcia Bernal plays a young Mexican priest who lusts after a female parishioner in a controversial drama.

"Empire": John Leguizamo stars as a gangster who tries to go legit by partnering with a Wall Street investment banker, but ain't nobody legit on Wall Street.

"Equilibrium": Christian Bale bucks the system in a future world where feelings are outlawed in a sci-fi action drama with Emily Watson and Taye Diggs.

"Fidel": Estela Bravo's documentary about Senor Castro's first 40 years of Cuban leadership is said to be neutral about his politics. This I gotta see.

"Personal Velocity": Rebecca Miller wrote and directed portraits of three diverse women (Kyra Sedgwick, Parker Posey, Fairuza Balk).

"Stealing the Fire": John S. Friedman and Eric Nadler document Germany's role in providing nuclear weaponry to Iraq and other enemies of the Free World.

DEC. 13

"The Hot Chick": Rob Schneider gets in touch with his feminine side after a curse on a popular cheerleader sends her into his body.

"Maid in Manhattan": Eligible politician Ralph Fiennes falls for hotel maid Jennifer Lopez thinking she's a guest, in Wayne Wang's romantic comedy.

"Star Trek: Nemesis": Romulans stir up trouble for the Federation and Patrick Stewart's Next Generation in the 10th feature film in the series.

DEC. 18:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers": Sir Ian McKellen makes another Oscar bid as Gandalf in part 2 of Peter Jackson's version of Tolkien.

DEC. 20:

"Adaptation": Nicolas Cage plays screenwriter Charlie Kaufman ("Being John Malkovich") and his twin brother in a bizarre comedy.

"Gangs of New York": Irish and Italian gangs tangle amid political corruption in mid-19th-century New York, in Martin Scorsese's drama with Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz.

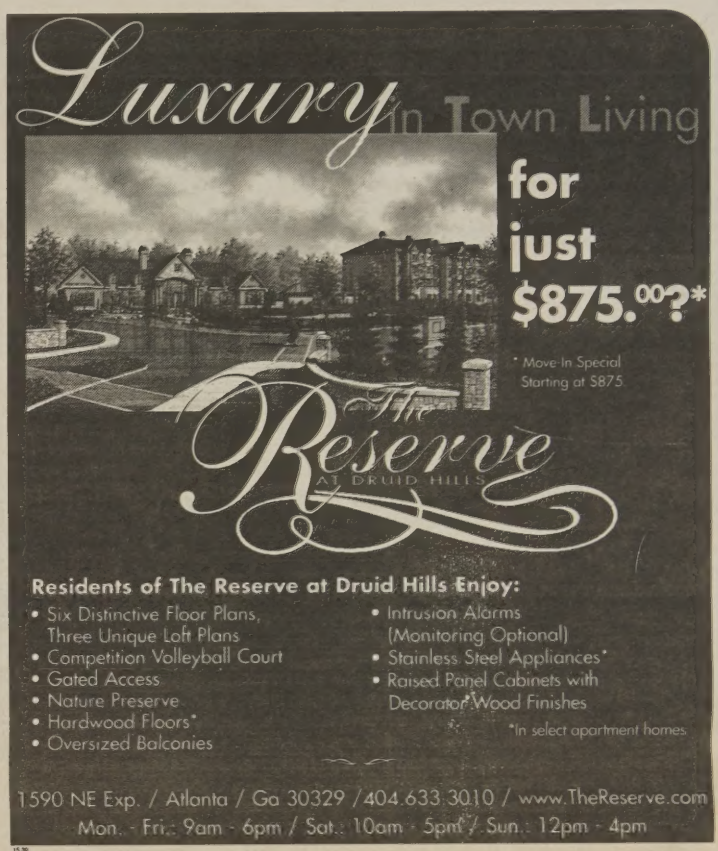
"Two Weeks Notice": Attorney Sandra Bullock falls in love with problem client Hugh Grant. Baseball's Mike Piazza, who still isn't gay, cameos.

DEC. 25:

"Antwone Fisher": Navy psychiatrist Denzel Washington (who also directed) helps a troubled sailor (Derek Luke) deal with his past in a fact-based drama.

"Catch Me If You Can": Leonardo DiCaprio stars as Frank Abagnale, who is wanted by the FBI (Tom Hanks), in Steven Spielberg's version of a true story.

"Talk to Her": Javier Camara and Dario Grandinetti bond while their women lie comatose in a hospital in gay director Pedro Almodovar's latest melodrama.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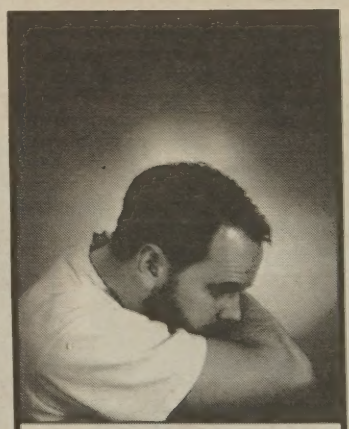

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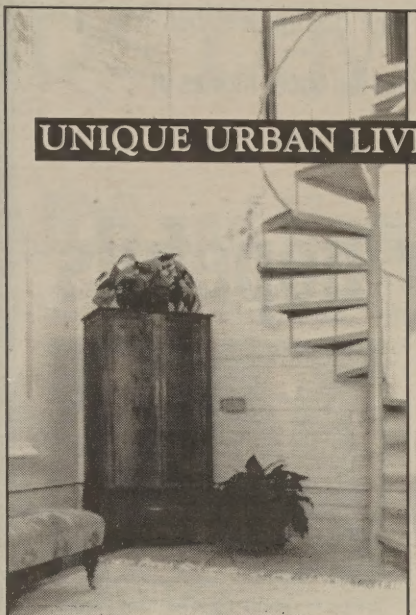

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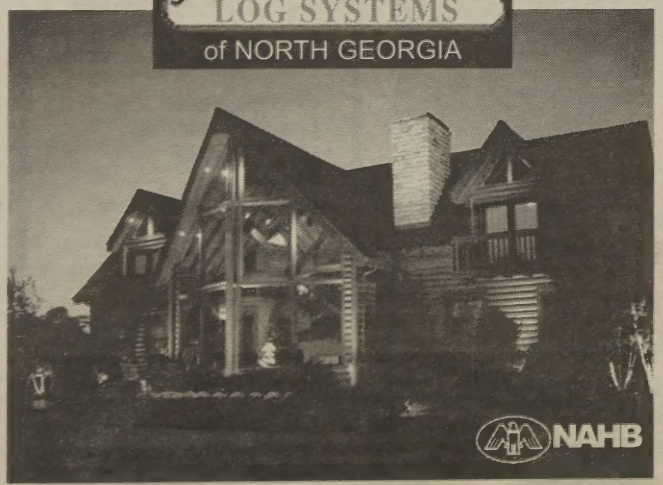

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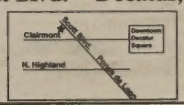

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Get it on tape

Tabs say fuss about Princess Di's butler boils down to tape about a gay sex scandal

Princess Diana

BEING AN EMPLOYEE OF THE ROYAL family has become rather dangerous over the past few weeks. First, **PRINCESS DIANA**'s longtime butler and confidant Paul Burrell was hauled into court for supposedly stealing a number of the deceased royal's possessions.

At the 11th hour, after the trial had already begun, **QUEEN ELIZABETH II** stepped forward and revealed that Burrell told her that he had the possessions, and she allowed him to keep them. Thus the trial ended, and Burrell, who has refused millions of dollars from various media outlets to tell all the royal secrets he knows, can go back to running his flower shop.

TABLOID ROUND UP

The Queen's stepping into the case certainly raised some eyebrows, but the Globe thinks it knows the real reason behind the clemency offered Burrell.

"The real reason behind the sudden collapse of the case against [Burrell] is that the royal family believed Prince Charles was about to be engulfed in a gay rape scandal that would stain his reputation forever, say sources," the tabloid writes.

Well, gay sex usually does leave some stains, but if Charles saying he wanted to be a tampon so he could stay inside his girlfriend **CAMILLA PARKER-BOWLES**' coochie didn't stain him forever, Dish doesn't know if gay sex will do much damage.

Apparently, several years ago, Di went to visit an ailing former palace employee in the hospital. She smuggled a tape recorder into the room and taped the conversation.

"On the tape, the [male] servant alleges that he was attacked, overpowered and brutally violated by a close [male] friend of 54 year-old Charles," the paper writes.

When the police looked into the assault, they grilled Charles about the gay goings-on at the palace, not only about the rape, but about other liaisons as well. The Globe alleges that the ailing employee told Diana all about the gay underground in the palace.

Eventually, prosecutors decided there wasn't enough evidence to prosecute Charles' friend. Charles paid for his friend's legal expenses, gave the employee $75,000 to never talk about the matter again, and found him a new job with a British airline.

What does this all have to do with the straight and married Burrell? Well, the royals thought that, along with her dresses, letters, and other items, Burrell had the incriminating tape. "When the royals realized that all this was likely to come out in [Burrell's] trial, the decided it would be safer to pull the plug on the case," one "well-placed insider" told the paper.

Well, come to find out, Burrell didn't have the tape and no one seems to know where it is, or if it even exists. "[The tape] would do irreparable damage to Charles and the royal family's image," the paper claims. "There have been marital scandals galore, but a gay rape brouhaha would have totally turned off the British public."

They're right, while gay sex may turn the public on, gay rape is a whole different matter.

Not a Shocker

GUESS WHAT ... **RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN** is gay, at least that's what the National Examiner says.

Richard Chamberlain

The actor has been plagued by rumors about his orientation since he starred as TV's Dr. Kildare in the '60s and also as star of mini-series sensations "The Thorn Birds" and "Shogun."

The Examiner reports that these revelations will come out — so to speak — in the star's soon-to-be-released autobiography, "Toward Love." At 67, Chamberlain is still a "bachelor" and lives in Hawaii with Martin Rabbett, who co-starred with Chamberlain in "Allan Quartermain and the Lost City of Gold."

"Richard and I are special friends and business partners," the tabloid quotes Rabbett as saying. "I'd never speak for Richard, but I'm gay."

Well, hopefully the book can put the rumors to rest so we can gossip about other "straight" stars.

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

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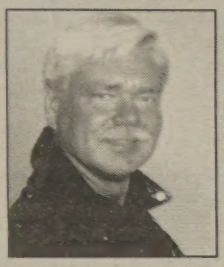

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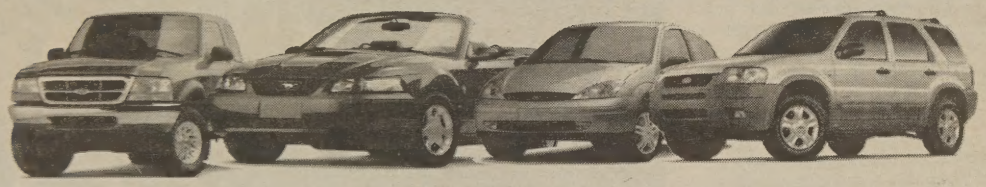

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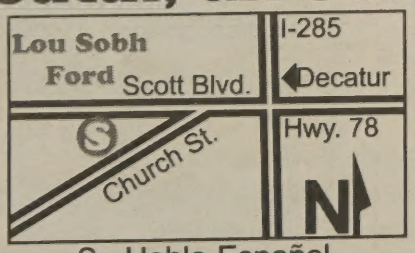

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Jazz vocalist **Holly Cole** graces Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. with her renditions of Christmas classics. 80 Forsyth St. www.rialtocenter.org and 404-651-4727

MONDAY DEC. 2

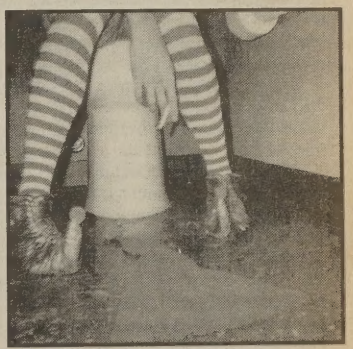
Atlanta Writers in Concert celebrates its 20th anniversary with a benefit for the Atlanta Community Foodbank. Atlanta writers, including gay author Jim Grimsley, present fresh works at the Center for Puppetry Arts at 7:30 p.m. 1404 Spring St. 404-873-3391 or www.puppet.org

WEDNESDAY DEC. 4

Renowned gay designer and ceramicist **Jonathan Adler** opens his **'Wide Awake at the Wheel'** exhibit at the Woodruff Arts Center with a lecture on his life and work beginning at 7 p.m. 1280 Peachtree St. NE 404-733-4449 or www.woodruffcenter.org

FRIDAY DEC. 6

The National Touring Center brings the Tony award-winning **'Fosse'** to the Ferst Center for the Arts. The smash Broadway hit highlights legendary choreographer, dancer and director Bob Fosse whose credits include 'Chicago' and the film version of 'Cabaret.' 349 Ferst Dr. 404-894-9600 or www.ferstcenter.org



David Sedaris' hilarious **'Santaland Diaries'** is a dark comedy about a grown man's experience as a Macy's elf during the holidays. Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. Dec. 6-31, Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 8 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 8:30 p.m. www.horizontheatre.com or 404-584-7450

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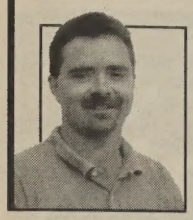

Troupe strikes third straight hit with adaptation of **Bronte classic** that runs long but is **carried by great cast.**

An 'Eyre' of success

AFTER WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE greatest one-two punch in Actor's Express history — the gay love story "Beautiful Thing" followed by the dazzling musical "Gypsy" — it's a relief to see that the theater hasn't had a creative meltdown.

Up and running now is a fine adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre."

This "Eyre" is adapted by Julie Beckman and had its world premiere two years ago in Seattle. It's a very fast-paced show, with the actors almost always in motion and the secondary players weaving their way in and out of characters.

In the title role, Agnes Harty — of those big, expressive eyes and durable range — narrates her own story, playing Eyre from a young girl in pigtails to the middle-aged governess, secretly in love with Lord Rochester (Basil Harris) and unaware of the Big Secret lurking in the attic.

The production really cooks in the casting. Harty is a wonderful choice to play the lead role. She is required to display a wide range of emotions and hits them all.

The courtship between Jane and Rochester strikes the right chord as a business relationship that leads to more, with each covertly expressing their feelings for each other.

One of the key moments of director David Crowe's production comes when they first openly express their affection. It's a stellar, moving moment.

BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT IS THE HEROine's quest for family and the sadness she carries over not having a clan of her own.

As Jane suffers tragedy after tragedy, she becomes both defiant and sympathetic.

Capable performers surround Harty, especially Barbara Cole in a number of roles, including the infamous madwoman of Thornfield. If the first act flies by almost effortlessly, it's in the second act that the pace begins to slow considerably, with one calamity after the other. At an hour and a half, it's simply way too padded. But the play is faithful to the beloved book and leisurely builds to its happy and deserved ending.

This new adaptation doesn't necessarily improve matters, but it does make it a tad more palatable as stage fodder. "Jane Eyre" is a robust and passionate production, and if you can handle a three-hour period piece, this is the one for you.

THE NEW TROUPE JACK IN THE Black Box just opened the world premiere of "The Geldings," a strange comedy western with sexually confused cowboys, talking horses and run-away

Venerable actress **Agnes Harty** (far left) plays classic heroine 'Jane Eyre' from girlhood to governess surrounded by a highly deft cast in the latest triumph from Actor's Express.

body parts. Rob Beams is Handsome Flem Gelding, who shares a most unfortunate predicament with his brothers.

Their late, demented mother pulled a Lorena Bobbitt and chopped off their penises, ostensibly to keep them out of trouble. So the men shy away from women, unable to fulfill manly deeds.

Flem, though, finds some phallic attachments in the dessert and tries them out along with his dim-witted brother Fat Floss (Marty Aikens). But the penises come to life, and Fat Floss's new best friend runs away on him.

The play has a gay subplot, as Fat Floss realizes he has feelings for Big Pete Calhoun (Shaun Easter). But it's difficult to determine what playwright William Seebring is trying to say.

Is he commenting that men don't need penises to be real men? That men are better off without them, freeing them of the non-stop distractions?

Granted, the show doesn't take itself seriously, but the confusing concept wouldn't matter so much if there were any real laughs. Sadly, there aren't. "The Geldings" is flaccid.

MORE INFO

'Jane Eyre'
Through Dec. 22
Actor's Express
887 W Marietta St., NW
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'The Geldings'
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Dad's Garage
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dining JONATHAN LERNER

Vinocity offers interesting seasonal fare showing great promise, even if most **dishes are under-salted** with no available shaker.

Salt of the Earth

SO YOU THOUGHT MIDTOWN already had enough sophisticated-casual restaurants? Here is yet another one to tempt diners in the area.

Vinocity — wine city, get it? — occupies a blown out bungalow in that predominantly hetero entertainment enclave just southwest of 14th and Peachtree Streets.

But never mind the politics of sexual orientation. Check this place out anyway.

The downstairs is all bar and lounge. The dining room is above, tucked up into the gables. It's painted midnight blue, with gauzy-metallic drapes of blue and gold. A big upstairs terrace with a southern view will be the place to sit come spring.

The restaurant is hung with a periodically changing display of original paintings by unsung local artists. Except for Amanda Jones' huge, vibrantly colorful portrait of a sofa, the current batch is forgettable. But they do convey the establishment's penchant for originality.

THE MENU DOES THAT A LOT BETter. Everything is earthy, complex and perfect for winter. Even the colors on the plates are right for the season, in golds, reds and browns.

The wine list is not enormous, but it's interesting. All choices are available by the glass, and there are plenty of worthy bottles priced between $25 and $40. The bright fruit and spice in a '98 Van Duzer pinot noir worked fine with everything I tried.

One knockout starter is the roasted lamb: a pair of chops laid over a cake of couscous and goat cheese with a treacly sauce of apricot and fig. This rich and ample plate plus a salad will satisfy any normal human appetite.

Another starter is gnocchi — flat, golden-crusted potato dumplings in a deep pool of hazelnut butter. The plate is strewn with little cubes of sweet potato and toasted pumpkin seeds.

Those who can face all that butter will find it, too, an inspired combination of flavors. But to my tongue, it desperately needed salt to let the gnocci bloom.

In fact, my main criticism of Vinocity's food is that it is undersalted. And you will look in vain for a salt-shaker on your table.

Some people must be on salt-restricted diets. And the nutrition police convinced a lot of the rest of us, some years back, to lay off it.

But I at least have come to my senses. Salt makes food taste better, period.

If restaurant kitchens want to consider people who must refrain, that's laudable. But put salt on the table for the rest of us.

Yes, I'm phobic about fat, but I like my salt.

FOR ONE ENTRÉE, I TRIED THE PORK chops, which are marinated in bourbon and grilled to have a crisp, caramelized edge. They come with a savory apple bread pudding, fat tender spears of grilled asparagus and a veal reduction spiked with honey and shallot.

As it happened on my visit, the enormously thick double chop, despite its lovely crust, was unnervingly raw inside.

When this oversight was pointed out, the chops were whisked away to be butterflied and cooked further — to just the right point.

This correction was handled with perfect grace, and over my protest, that item was taken off the bill.

While the chops were away, I gave a go to the "napoleon" of beef filet layered with sweet lump crabmeat. This comes with an impossibly rich three-cheese polenta, wild mushroom ragout and a slightly sweet red-wine veal reduction.

Although I was feeling carnivorous that night, more than half the menu is seafood, fowl or vegetarian.

There's also a choice of two cheese courses that would make ideal nibbles for just sitting downstairs to sip grape juice. The cheese plates are designed, respectively, to pair with red or white wines.

I'll be eager to see what this kitchen comes up with next spring, when a wintry-rich meal like the one I had will be unthinkable.

vinocity

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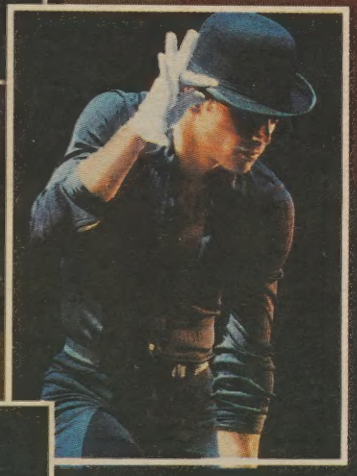

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Gay author's son to be raised with reality, not morality

SAVAGE, continued from Page 31

erning how we live our lives, but Savage isn't happy with the status quo, he says.

"Somebody needs to make the rules, I guess our elected officials need to make the rules," he says. "But we need to elect different ones who can make better rules."

SAVAGE'S DISLIKE OF THE RIGHT ISN'T a result of his being gay, but it certainly adds to his dissatisfaction with a group of people who haven't been very tolerant of gays in the past, he says.

"[Liberal filmmaker] Michael Moore isn't a cock smoker, so you can hate the right without hopping into a sling," Savage says. "I think it's like my being an ex-Catholic. I'm not the only ex-Catholic out there, but the reason I am one is because I'm gay."

But even gays don't escape Savage's critical eye in "Gomorrah." For the chapter dedicated to the sin of pride, he travels to Los Angeles to attend the L.A. Pride festival and parade with a wealthy and beautiful gay couple. Though Savage is against the idea of Gay Pride events, he still has fun with the boys, enjoying all the shirtless men and even dropping a tab of ecstasy.

"I have no patience for the 'gay is good' rhetoric," he says. "It's as harmful as 'gay is bad.' I don't think Pride parades are a monumental waste of time, but I think that gay pride needs to be retired in the same way 'Black Power' was retired."

Savage's argues that traditional pride celebrations are fine, but if gays just want to throw themselves a party, then they should just call it a big party, instead of hiding behind traditional stump speeches about acceptance. After all, Savage isn't a big fan of "gay culture" as a whole.

"There's a little gay parallel universe, like the gay special Olympics for gays who can't compete in the real world," he says. "[But] I don't think there is a gay culture.

Dan Savage's book 'Skipping Towards Gomorrah' finds him enacting all seven of Christianity's 'deadly sins.'

"There are contributions to the culture that gay people make," he adds, citing garish examples of "gay culture" in his chapter about pride. "The green thong and the rainbow anklet, that's gay culture."

Some gay men and lesbians — including the couple Savage attends the gay pride festival with — claim that Pride events are for gay youth or people who are just coming out of the closet. It gives them a space where they can be comfortable and see other people like them, they argue.

But seeing overweight men in thongs and dancing shirtless on drugs to thumping music isn't doing much to really further that cause, Savage asserts.

Savage and his partner adopted a son — a journey documented in Savage's last book "The Kid" — and he said that it is best for his son to learn lessons about pride, sin and how to pursue happiness from him and his partner.

"I will tell my son that there will be things that he will enjoy but should be sparing in indulging in them, as his parents are," he says. "We'll be open about them, about our pot use as well as our sling, even though it's still in its box in the basement."

Leaving a sling in its box in the basement? Sounds pretty conservative.

MORE INFO

'Skipping Towards Gomorrah: the Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America'
By Dan Savage
E.P. Dutton Press
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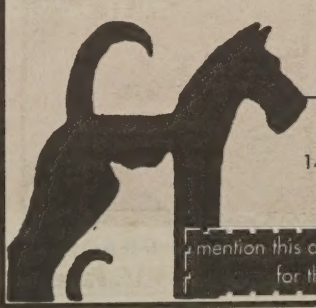

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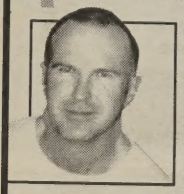

In era of extended life expectancy, pets need adjustments on your end to ensure **happy, healthy golden years.**

Caring for senior pets

Regular visits to the vet are a must for older animals, and extra consultations should follow any change in behavior or appearance as pets age.

PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER, AND so are pets.

Most breeds of dogs live between 10-15 years, and the average lifespan of cats is 20 years. If you have an aging pet, the most likely growing-old signals are the subtle but significant changes in its health care needs.

Depending on a dog or cat's size and breed, it may be entering the prime of its life or the golden years.

Cats and small dogs up to 50 pounds are generally considered "old" at 11 years or more. For large and giant breeds of dogs, the numbers drop to eight and seven, respectively, while statistics show mixed breed dogs live longer than pure breeds.

No matter the type or age of your pet, it will eventually need health care more attuned to the changes aging brings.

With today's improved veterinary health care, better nutrition and an increase in indoor living, pets are living longer. But with this longer life expectancy comes a multitude of health concerns to which senior pets are susceptible.

SOME COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS in older pets include periodontal disease, heart, lung or kidney disease, cancer, degenerative joint disease, diabetes and hearing and/or vision loss.

All of these conditions may not be preventable. But providing a diet formulated for your pet's changing needs, frequent visits to the veterinarian and an exercise program that accommodates any physical limitations can diminish some maladies.

A complete, balanced, digestible and palatable diet is required at all life stages, but seniors require fewer calories and need restricted protein, sodium and phosphorus. Depending on a pet's health, a veterinarian may prescribe a special, therapeutic diet that will meet its changing needs.

All pets need to have a thorough physical examination every year, but once they have reached "senior" status, it's best to see your veterinarian every six months. Blood work, an echocardiogram (EKG) and blood pressure readings should be done on an annual basis.

FOR THE BEST CHANCES OF DETECTing cancer early, have chest and abdominal radiographs and an abdominal ultrasound done every six months. A veterinarian also can recommend any exercise modifications your pet needs.

Aging pets still need exercise, but modifications are needed to help avoid inflicting too much stress on existing health conditions. For example, swimming is a good, low impact exercise for arthritic pets, but those with heart disease should be allowed to set their own pace in the activity of their choice.

Many pets naturally drink less as they age, which can lead to dehydration. Try keeping several water bowls in different areas of the house to encourage your pet to lap it up.

If you have a dog that doesn't get around much anymore, be sure to set a bowl close to sleeping quarters. You can monitor how much water your pet is downing by keeping an eye on what's left in the bowls at night.

Many aging pets lose some of their hearing as they age, making them more vulnerable to accidents. Keep older pets confined indoors or on a leash when outside to prevent such issues.

So when should you begin making these changes to your pet's diet, healthcare and exercise routine?

Any deviation from a pet's "normal" behavior is reason to consult a veterinarian. Even subtle changes in body weight, quality of coat, activity level, appetite/thirst or elimination habits will help detect underlying health conditions that may need medical attention.

When in doubt, talk to your veterinarian.

When Fluffy isn't getting around like she used to, visit the vet often, let pets exercise at their own rate and make water available in more places.

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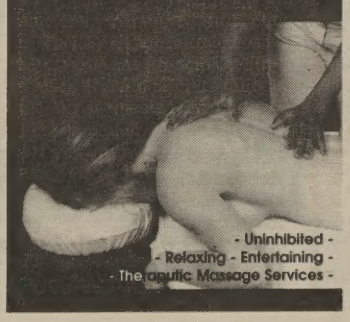

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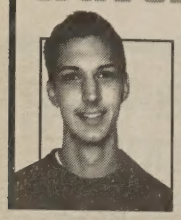


New exhibit at D.C.'s Holocaust Museum exposes gay persecution by Nazis and **future of gay civil rights** movement.

History repeating?

MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN REALIZE that gays were persecuted alongside Jews in Germany's Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. The German government didn't officially acknowledge gays as one of the groups that suffered the atrocities in Nazi concentration camps before and during World War II.

But in fact, 100,000 men were arrested under Paragraph 175, the statute of the German penal code that criminalized male homosexuality — lesbianism was never made illegal. Of those arrested, 50,000 were sent to prison and another 5,000 to 15,000 were sent to concentration camps.

"[Gays] suffered the worst of the atrocities of the concentration camps. They and the Jews were at the bottom of the social order," says Ted J. Phillips, the deputy director in the division of exhibitions at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the scholar behind "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945," a new exhibition that opened November 15.

"We've been including the story of homosexuals as victims of Nazi persecution since we opened," Phillips says. "This is really the telling of the story of one of many other non-Jewish groups."

THE EXHIBIT EXPLAINS THAT AFTER World War I, a gay subculture became well established in Germany before the Nazi party came to power.

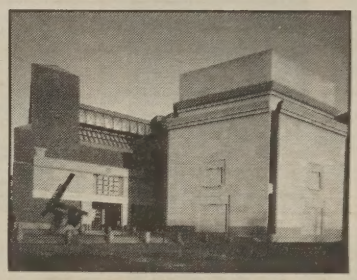
"It was a spirit of experimentation and social renewal and the search for an identity after the loss of World War I and the collapse of the economy in the 1920s," Phillips says. "They were trying to establish individual rights in a new society."

The gay subculture in Berlin had gay bars, gay newspapers and gay social groups and achieved a relatively high degree of acceptance.

In 1929, there was even a vote by a committee of the German general assembly to abolish Paragraph 175, which was enacted in 1871. But after the American stock market crash, Germans veered away from social policy and began looking at economic concerns.

The fall of the stock market also brought about a conservative backlash that led to the rise of the Nazi party in 1933. Within weeks of their arrival in office, the government closed down some 350 gay bars.

AS HOMOSEXUALS WERE ROUNDED up by police, homosexuality also became a way to discount Nazi political enemies. Hitler used it against Ernst Rohm, the leader of the Nazi storm troopers who was gay, when he became a political adversary.



An exhibit at the **United State Holocaust Museum** in Washington, D.C., focuses on the 100,000 men arrested under Paragraph 175, the statute criminalizing male homosexuality during Germany's Nazi regime.

"I think we continue to live on an individual level with the violence that was shown toward gays in the Holocaust," says Marc Stein, chair of the Committee on Lesbian & Gay History, an arm of the American Historical Association. "While our nation isn't mobilized to the destruction of a group of people, our society does still express extreme hostility toward gays and lesbians and transgendered people."

While Stein comments on the historical context of gay persecution, Wayne Besen, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign who has Jewish family members who survived the Holocaust, puts these events and the new exhibit into a political perspective.

"There are never guarantees, and anybody who thinks that we have a preordained path toward equality needs look no further than what happened in Germany in the '20s," Besen says. "If we're not vigilant, then people can get into power and enact their agenda."

Philips hopes that studying history and viewing the exhibit will bring some good.

"Our goal here at the museum is to look at questions of bystanders and what is the role of bystanders in a democracy and what becomes of prejudice when it is unleashed," he says.

MORE INFO

'Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945'
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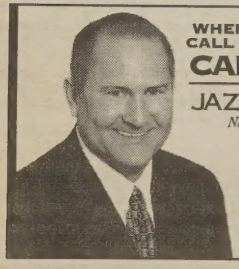

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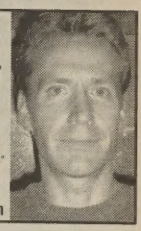

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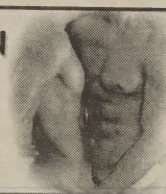

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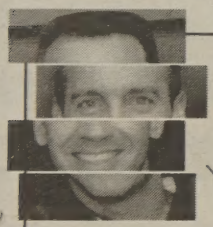

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medical report

Founder of AIDS Quilt decries lack of political focus on disease

CONCORD, N.H. — Angry at the Bush administration's response to the worldwide AIDS epidemic, the founder of the AIDS Quilt plans to bring it back to Washington in 2004 to call new attention to the disease, according to the Associated Press. The quilt, currently stored in Atlanta, was last in the nation's capital in 1996. But activist Cleve Jones is hoping to bring it back on Columbus Day weekend in 2004. "I'm frightened and I'm angry, and I'm going to do everything in my power to get the president and Congress to focus on this issue and take action," said Jones, a gay man who developed symptoms of AIDS in 1992. "2004 is going to be a crucial year. We want AIDS and health care to be on the agenda that year." The quilt first was displayed in Washington with 1,920 panels, each commemorating the life of someone who had died of the disease. By 1989, there were 16,000, and now there are more than 80,000 panels, Jones said.

Cleve Jones, who founded the now 80,000-panel AIDS Quilt, wants to bring it to Washington, D.C. to boost political 'focus' on the disease during a presidential election year.

Distribution of sex kits to gay men curtailed in Ariz. park

CENTRAL PHOENIX, Ariz. — Men seeking sex at Papago Park will no longer get free condoms and lubricants from Maricopa County health workers, according to the Arizona Republic. A county administrator ordered a halt to the distribution of "survival kits" at the public park in the wake of media reports about the program. Public officials said the effort facilitates public sex. The employees frequented the park as part of MenPower, a federally funded program aimed at reducing HIV/AIDS. "Their primary purpose is to go out there and try to convince [men] not to have sex in public and get them into a counseling program," health department spokesperson Douglas Hauth said. The kits contain condoms, lubricants and cards that include public sex laws. They are handed out at parks, bathhouses, bars and other places gay men may meet for sex, Hauth said.

Fla. blood bank studies new methods to remove HIV from donations

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A regional blood bank is planning to test a system that would remove HIV, bacteria and other viruses from donated blood as soon as April, according to the Associated Press. "What everybody expects is zero risk. Nobody wants to accept anything but zero risk," said Dr. German Leparc, medical director of Florida Blood Services. "I don't think there's anything in life that's zero-risk ... but (we're) trying to get there." The announcement comes four months after two people contracted HIV during transfusions of tainted blood provided by Florida Blood Services. Scientists are experimenting with two different methods of cleansing blood — using ultraviolet light to kill viruses and bacteria, or by killing them with chemicals. Leparc said two studies he wants to launch in local hospitals would attempt to determine if the treated blood works in the same manner as untreated blood. The Food & Drug Administration bans blood donations from any man who has had sex, even once, with another man since 1977.

AIDS programs helping poor deplete funds in Wyo.

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — State programs that help people with HIV and AIDS pay for medication and other health care will run out of funds in less than six weeks and cannot accept any more participants, according to the Associated Press. Kurt Galbraith, the state Department of Health's care coordinator, said the state has nearly depleted this year's $340,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that funds the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the HIV/AIDS Care Program. No new money will be available until April, when the funding renews. A major factor in the lack of funds is the increasing cost of medication, which last year took up about 73 percent of the funds, Galbraith said. Some 77 people in the state currently receive funding for their medicine and health care under the federal Ryan White CARE Act. Mary Speraw, an AIDS activist in the state, said she is not surprised the state ran out of money, since the federal government has not increased funding to match rising drug costs. "We need money for bombs and warheads, not for AIDS," she said.

Conservative Singapore to give out HIV-prevention packs to men

SINGAPORE — Singapore plans to distribute HIV-prevention packs containing condoms to male travelers heading to what it deems high-risk destinations, the Straits Times reported, according to the Associated Press. The packs, which will also contain information on the dangers of casual sex, will be given out by the Health Promotion Board through local travel agents. The plan was announced at the third annual Singapore AIDS Conference, which this year aims to improve AIDS awareness in this conservative city-state where many people still believe the disease is limited to gay men. Homosexual acts are illegal in Singapore, a country of four million people, and AIDS is seldom openly discussed.

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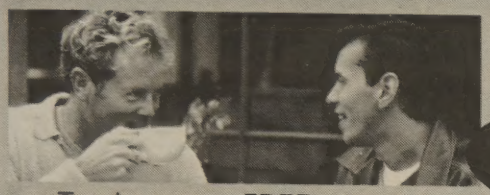

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GWM, 40, 6'3", 175lbs, D/D-free, N/S, not bar type, seeks same in WM, 30-45, H/W proportionate, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6317

CHRISTIAN BEAR
SWGM, 6'1", 240lbs, totally masculine football player from Alabama. Seeking slim to medium build white male, 20's - 30's, for serious Christian relationship. Serious inquiries only. Leave latest time to call. ☎6775

SANE, SINGLE. SEXY
40-something, health-conscious, sharp with a good sense of humor, stable, and everything else that's good. Atlanta ☎6949

MAN ABOUT THE SOUTHSIDE
Seeking Southside GW friend, 40-55, slim/average, for hanging out. Into sports, movies, the arts, nature, dining out. Not into bars, smoking, drugs, excess drinking. Let's hook up and have fun. Stockbridge ☎6812

CALLING ALL BODY-BUILDERS
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks GWM body builder for friendship, cuddling, possibly, more. Show off those muscles for your number one fan! Atlanta ☎4939

LOOKING FOR LOVE
BM, 37, 6', 175lbs, medium build, wears glasses, HIV+, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking honest, outgoing man for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎6688

NON-SCENE
SWPM, 27, 6'1", 180lbs, blond/blue, not into bar or club scene, enjoys movies and dining out. Seeking honest, simple GM for honest, committed, monogamous relationship. Douglasville ☎6625

SEEKING OUTSTANDING MEN
WM, 36, 6'1", slender, handsome, quiet, enjoys BBC America, physical labor. Seeking man, any culture, color, 35-55. Masculine, bisexual a plus. White collar; nice. Blue collar; sexy. West Central Area. Buena Vista ☎7015

YOUNG WHITE COUPLE
one is 25, blond/blue, 175lbs, the other is 34, blondish-brown/green, looking for masculine, GWM, who is fun and outgoing, for LTR Atlanta ☎6899

AUSSIE WANTED
GWM, 37, 5'8", 165lbs, cute, sandy blonde/green, nice build, enjoys outdoor activities, tennis, work outs, traveling. Seeking guy from "down under". Are you out there? Atlanta ☎6871

SEEK SOMEONE SPECIAL
BM, 5'8", 274lbs, brown eyes, student, likes dining out, cooking, hanging with friends, bowling, volunteering, relaxing at home. Seeking down-to-earth, independent man for friendship first, maybe LTR. ☎7081

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, shy SBM, 21, 5'10", 165lbs, black/brown, loves amusement parks, reading, cuddling, photography, videos, shopping, movies. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing SWM, 18-30, for friendship, warm, loving LTR. Macon ☎5511

NEVER BEEN KISSED
GBM, 28, 6', 235lbs, enjoys movies and bowling. Seeking SBM, 22-40 for dating maybe more. Atlanta ☎6779

SEEKING THE SAME
SM, 34, 6'2", 200lbs, brown-blond/hazel, HIV+, seeks another HIV+ male, under 6', slender/average build, who likes shopping, travel, Sci Fi movies, cooking. Atlanta ☎6977

LET'S DANCE TOGETHER
Very attractive SWF, 46, 5'3", 95lbs, N/S, slender, dark auburn hair, green eyes, loves dancing, movies, travel. Seeking trim SWM, 40-50, 5'8"+. Stone Mountain ☎6895

SOMETHING REAL
SBM, 43, 260lbs, black/brown, a little shy, intelligent, outgoing, honest, caring, enjoys movies, music, cooking, basketball, reading, travel, much more. Seeking someone who honestly wants to form a bond, more? ☎7079

HOME-MAKER
GBM, late 30's Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves house-work, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeks average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎6810

SEEKING THE REAL THING
Down-to-earth SWPM, sincere, good-looking, HIV+, N/S, N/D, seeks same for dating, friendship, possible LTR. Me: 5'10", 175lbs, brown/blue, H/W proportionate. Enjoys movies, walks dinners out, water sports, quiet times. Peachtree City ☎6629

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7038

Been Glanced?

KEN THE BODYBUILDER
Received your voice mail response to my ad, but you didn't leave any way for me to contact you. Would love to talk. Please leave me your contact info! Atlanta ☎6248

PIEDMONT PARK 11/9
You: medium height, short dark hair, black pullover shirt. Me: bearish, short graying hair, glasses, navy polo shirt, khakis. We crossed the bridge, exchanged looks, I would like to talk. Smyrna ☎7070

ATTORNEY AT CAR WASH
Briar Cliff Rd., 11/2, you: red Atlanta cap, gray Passat, me: tan cap, black truck. Thought you were wonderful, would love to see you again, even if just as friends. Decatur ☎7041

PHIPPS IN THE RAIN
10/28, parking lot at Phipps. You: wheelchair, blonde, amputee, beautiful smile. Me: crewcut, hard body, white shirt, jeans. We spoke. Started pouring rain, had to run. Call and let's talk. Atlanta ☎7014

OUTRIGHT BOOKS
I met Labor day, we did not exchange phone numbers, we exchanged glances, please respond if this is you. Athens ☎6939

COLOSSEUM
David, my name is Jamie. We met at Augusta Colosseum - you were on business. You called my sister but didn't leave message. Please call so I can get in touch. Thanks. ☎6661

MIDTOWN 9/29
You: cute blonde walking with two friends, me: red car, dark hair, followed you. You looked back several times, please call. Atlanta ☎6883

JACKSONVILLE
Tuesday afternoon in jacuzzi. You: in town on business. Me: sad you don't live here. Please call. Saint Augustine ☎7106

PICKY ... AND PROUD OF IT
Shy, atypically typical, not lookin' anywhere near 40, 6'1", 157lbs, amusing, versatile/bottom, HIV-GWM who likes books, art, conversation, most of the human species, etc. Seeking someone to love. Conyers ☎7068

MASCULINE TOP - MIDTOWN
GWM, 49, 5'8", 150lbs, hairy, goatee, HIV+, great shape, enjoys movies, dining, travel, quiet times, sports. Seeking non-smoking GWM, under 45, in shape, for dating, romance, LTR. Loves kissing, cuddling. Atlanta ☎7043

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
Mature GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, blond/blue, N/S, on North side, seeks stable, masculine, fit GWM, 35-55, for dating, possible LTR. Prefer 6' or under, H/W proportionate. Love travel, movies, dining out. Duluth ☎6901

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

SEARCHING TO FIND
GBM, 40, 5'11", 215lbs, brown eyes, HIV, healthy, loves cooking, movies, walking, etc. Seeking average guy, top, for some fun, maybe more. South side. ☎7045

SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

SEEKING PARTNER
GWM, 48, 5'11", 200lbs, balding brown/blue, salt-n-pepper beard/moustache, HIV+, financially/emotionally stable, seeks secure, stable, goal-oriented guy for romance, friendship, and possibly more. Roswell ☎7053

SEEKING BLACK AND SEXY
SWM, 5'9", 170lbs, enjoys camping, singing, dancing, quiet evenings at home. Seeking BM, with similar interests, for friendship, or personal, private LTR. Athens ☎5877

EASYGOING GUY IN...
South Carolina. GWM, 40, 5'11", 155lbs, slender build, brow/blue-green, clean-cut, HIV+, enjoys travel, outdoors, photography, being at home, music, sports, more. Seeking quiet GW/HM, HIV+, for dating first, possible LTR. Goose Creek ☎7024

LOOKING FOR FUN
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

HANDSOME SWM SEEKS SAME
SWM, 36, 5'10", 168lbs, seeks similar SWM, for friendship or more. No disappointment here, looking for the same. Atlanta area. Macon ☎6714

SEEKS MR. RIGHT
SM, 6', 190lbs, brown/blue, average build, retired, big computer buff, interested in music. Looking for a quiet man for friendship, companionship, possibly more. Savannah ☎7023

ARE YOU THE ONE?
WM, 44, 5'8", 155lbs, brown/brown, muscular, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, gardening. Hoping to meet someone who has similar interests and qualities. Griffin ☎7026

YOUNG & SEARCHING
Male, 18, 5'8", 140lbs, gray-blue eyes, disease-free, college student, very outgoing, music lover, seeks an outgoing, nice man, for friendship, dating, and possibly more. Decatur ☎7001

PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC GUY
Handsome, romantic, laid-back GWM, 41, 6', 220lbs, HIV+, new to area, looking for friends, dating, relationship. Enjoy travel, outdoors, camping, cultural events, movies, cooking, spontaneous fun. Let's hang out. Athens. Winterville ☎6777

AM I THE ONE?
GWM, 22, 5'10", black/brown, good-looking, nice, outgoing, seeks GM with similar qualities, for fun, dining out, shopping, possible LTR. Gracewood ☎6387

ATYPICAL LIFESTYLE
Loving, handsome GWM, 50, enjoys homelife, cooking, movies, dining out, pets. Seeking SHM, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6866

SERIOUS
GBM, 41, 6'2", 185lbs, slender build, reddish-brown complexion, seeks GBM for friendship, leading to LTR. Decatur ☎6851

HAPPY IN RED
This male, 6'1", nurse, loves making people happy, sewing, and watching sports. Seeking another homebody for serious relationship. Stone Mountain ☎6997

TOTAL TOP
GWM, 45, 6', 175lbs, blond/blue, muscular, stable, healthy HIV+, seeks same in Atlanta. I'm waiting! ☎6808

LOOKING FOR YOU
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎6976

PLAYFUL AND SERIOUS
Masculine, attractive, well-educated, in-shape, HIV- SWM, 51, 6'1", 175lbs, seeks similar/different friend, 30-50, to pursue a life of both body and mind, home and travel, quiet walks, and passionate talks. Atlanta ☎6927

STILL 48 (30S LOOKING)
Sexy, attractive BM, 5'7", 185lbs, masculine top, well-built, caring, passionate, loving, loves dancing, dining, and the arts. Seeking attractive black, Asian, Latin, white with flavor, masculine bottoms. No smokers/drugs/drama. Atlanta ☎6776

FREAK
Closeted male, 49, 6'1", 235lbs, salt-n-pepper/blue, mustache, loves pool, bowling, and hiking. Seeking a male, top, full of humor and honesty. Lithia Springs ☎6897

MASCULINE TOP 4 BOTTOM
WM, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/brown, mustache, 39, loves life, camping, nature. Seeking similar for soul mate. Try me. Fayetteville ☎6595

CARING MALE SEEKS SAME
College student, 19, 5'9", 155lbs, cropped blond/blue, of Irish descent, sociology major, no children or pets. Seeking laid-back, level-headed guy for casual dating, possibly more. Cartersville ☎6868

WANTED: REAL NICE GUY
GWM, slave to work, seeks really nice guy, 30-45, to unwind with. Into sports-watching, movies, dinner, etc. I'm 46, 5'9", 170lbs, D/D-free, N/S. You too! NW Metro a plus! Kennesaw ☎6843

MODERATION
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎5512

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

LOOKING FOR FUN
Male, 38, 5'9", 165lbs, short brown/hazel, moustache, goatee, medium build, is looking for attractive, masculine BM. Norcross ☎6828

How to Place Your FREE Ad.

You can place a FREE Personal ad, 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling our automated ad taking service. Or if you'd like help in crafting your personal, you can talk to our customer service reps Mon. through Fri. from 8:30am to 11pm and Sun. from 10 am to 6 pm. Then you'll record a FREE voice greeting in which you can talk a little bit about yourself and the person you'd like to meet. You can pick up your messages at your leisure and call anyone who interests you. The best part, it's all FREE.

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I'd like my ad to appear in the following category:

- ☐ Men Seeking Men
- ☐ Been Glanced
- ☐ Bisexuals
- ☐ Women Seeking Women
- ☐ Just Friends
- ☐ TV/TS

The following information is confidential and necessary to send out instructions you will need.

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City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail : _____

HEADLINE (**25** characters) _____

AD COPY (**30** words are FREE!) _____

Send to: SoVo Connections, P.O. Box 15592, Boston, MA 02215-5592
Or FAX us at: 1-800-397-4444

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How To Respond To Ads.

To listen and respond to ads that interest you, call the 900 number or call toll free and use your credit card. You can listen to as many ads as you like and get to know more about the person from the sound of their voice. Then leave a message for the one or ones that intrigue you. All that's left is to have a great date, it's that easy.

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1-900-226-6235
Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+
With your credit card, call
1-800-982-6829

ARE YOU HIM?
Handsome, masculine GWPM, 40, 5'10", 175lbs, top, HIV+, enjoys gardening, music, movies, dining, flea markets, weekend getaways, beaches, holding hands. Seeking slender GPM, 30-45, N/S, for dating, possibly more. Atlanta ☎6805

HIBERNATION MATE
Bear GWM, medium build, seeks hairy and husky WM, 45-55, for hibernation. HIV- only. Usual interests. Prefer south side or east side metro Atlanta buddy. ☎7105

JUST ME
Serious SWM, 54, 5'8", 160lbs, lives in North Georgia Mountains. Seeking passionate, sincere, honest man. Cleveland ☎7125

LOOKING FOR LTR
Me: BiBM, 21, 5'9", toned build, light-skinned, bottom, masculine. You: cute, attractive, good body build, top, masculine. I enjoy anything fun and love to try new things. Decatur ☎7012

SEEKING SENIOR MAN
Tall, trim, good-looking, 42-year-old WM in search of a senior (60+) gentleman for a LTR. Atlanta ☎6872

Women Seeking Women

LONELY MOM
GBF, 30, 5'7", great laugh, likes reading, going to movies, going out and enjoying life. Seeking fun-loving, adventurous GBF for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6950

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎7098

NO...
false advertising here! Fun, outgoing, honest, intelligent, feminine GWPF, 32, seeks GWF for meaningful friendship first, possible LTR. Love the fall, walks, great conversation, and laughing. Smokers ok. Tucker ☎6840

WAITING TO EXHALE
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎6870

SPECIAL LADY SOUGHT
Female, 44, 5'7", 175lbs, with MS, looking for a special lady to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! Covington ☎6773

SENSE OF HUMOR
SF, 38, 5'2", mother, lives life one day at a time, likes being at home, television, playing cards, conversation. Seeking a female with the same interests. ☎7094

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GWF, 27, 130lbs, brown/brown, cute, seeks very cute, athletic, feminine female to enjoy the outdoors and life. Thomasville ☎6937

SOMEONE JUST FOR ME
BPF seeks beautiful soft butch, 35+, N/Drugs, N/S, mentally/spiritually/financially centered. Character is important. Race is not. Stone Mountain ☎6638

NO GAMES, JUST SINCERITY
Soft, butch GWF, 35, seeks LTR with a kindred spirit, a special woman, 30+, who likes scary movies, sushi. Must believe that romance never ends, and cuddling springs eternal. Decator Atlanta ☎5901

DON'T GIVE UP
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

FALL FOR ME THIS FALL!
GWF, 42, 5'2", 135lbs, feminine, pretty, and unique, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, exercise, working out, tanning at the beach. Seeking GWF, responsible, mature, sweet, and honest, for companionship, possibly more. Tucker ☎7042

SEEKING MISS RIGHT
SF, 35, 4'11", 100lbs, dark/green, likes watching football, quiet evenings at home. Seeking a female who shares my interests. Committed relationship. ☎6830

GWF ISO N/S GWF FEMME
Me: 40, blonde/blue, outgoing, kind, strong and loving. In search of non-smoking femme, for friendship first. No drama please. Lets have fun and see what happens! Travel, wine, music, fun! Atlanta ☎6811

2 GOOD 2 B LOOKING 4 LOVE
42-year-old BF, independent, healthy, and open-minded, forgot how to look for a date so call before x-mas. Atlanta ☎7044

BEAUTY SEEKING BEAUTY
SF, 5'3", 150lbs, black/brown, vegetarian, enjoys spending time with my two sons, watching sports, reading, being active. Seeking a woman for casual dating that may grow into something strong. Smyrna ☎6952

BROWN SUGAR
41, black female, smoker, College Park, very romantic, soft butch. Where are you ladies? Race unimportant. ☎6719

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT..
GBF, in search of a mate, someone honest, sincere and available to date, with a charming spirit, integrity and personality. No drama or issues and secure in her sexuality. Decatur ☎7013

SOON 2B DOCTOR
GWF, 43, attractive, funny, seeks femme for friendship/possibly more. Not into bar scene, smoking, drinking, drugs. Great sense of humor, loves cuddling. Down-to-earth, outgoing. Love pets, be allergic to cats. Suwanee ☎6966

I'M AVAILABLE
SF, 5'2", very cute soft stud, loves traveling, movies, plays, theater, having a good time. Looking for a woman who is adventurous for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6954

WORTH A TRY
SWF, 43, graying/blue, soft butch, seeks same. Are you 35-50, stable, drug-free, N/S, can you make me laugh, make me think? I'm sincere are you? Its worth a try. Jonesboro ☎6873

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
GBF, 50, seeks attractive GBF, 40-50, N/Drugs, with a good sense of humor, intelligent, for friendship and dating. Greensboro ☎7071

MARTINI NIGHTS
GWPF in 40s, attractive, intelligent, fun, good sense of humor, N/S. Enjoys outdoors, arts, ballet, parks, festivals, traveling. Seeking feminine N/S, GWPF, 30-48. Social drinkers OK. Vinings ☎6802

NEW TO ATLANTA
GWPF, 40, 5'6", 135lbs, brown/brown, feminine, cute, and tom boyish, with varied interests, desires friendship/relationship with woman who is fit, educated, addiction free, feminine/tom boyish, with many interests. Atlanta area. Decatur ☎6692

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Very attractive, feminine, emotionally, spiritually/financially stable, fit GWPF, 30s, 125lbs, 5'4", honest, kind, seeks SWF for friendship, more. Enjoys golf, gym, dogs, movies, dinner, travel. Northwest Atlanta. D/D-free a must! Dallas ☎7069

FLORIDA WOMAN SEEKS LOVE
SWPF, 50s, enjoys beaches, mountains, outdoors, candlelight dinners, quiet evenings at home. Seeks same, must be feminine and attractive. Clearwater ☎6953

BRIGHT EYES
Honest GF, late-30s, very social, enjoys movies, dining out, family, travel and more. Seeking sincere, sweet, kind, feminine GF, for friendship, possible LTR. Smithville ☎6938

AFRICAN/AMERICAN QUEEN
Feminine GBF, 48, seeks aggressive, 100% lesbian, who is sincere, for dating first. Let's explore our horizons. No Bi's or Femmes please. Smyrna ☎6900

WANTING SOMEONE REAL
Female, 23, 5'1", 110lbs, layered auburn hair, in nursing school, loves all things sports and all things artistic. Seeking a woman with similar tastes. Forest Park ☎6910

LOVE ME TENDER
GWF, 38, 5'4", brown/brown, warm, loving, caring, enjoys camping, fishing, walks in the park, art, beaches, dining. Seeking same in GF, age unimportant. No drugs or disease. ☎6829

SEEKING SOMEONE TO LOVE
BBW GF, 32, HIV+, romantic, laid-back, seeks same in GF, for mutual admiration and love. Serious inquiries only. Atlanta ☎6865

LOOK HERE
GWPF, 49+1, serious about enjoying life, love to travel emotionally, spiritually, and by plane, attractive, stable, athletic, fit, vegetarian, who is solvent, chem free. Seeking friends first. Pine Lake ☎6566

MATURE SOPHISTICATE
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎7104

OLDER WISER LESBIANS
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎7072

Just Friends

FRIENDLY FOLK SEEK SAME
GM couple, 50s, is seeking other gays and/or couples in NW GA area for friendship and social activities. Plainville ☎6965

Bisexuals

BEAR MATE WANTED
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎6597

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Guidelines: Southern Voice personals are for adults 18 or over seeking long-term monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should always occur in a public place. Abbreviations are permitted only to indicate gender preference, race, and religion. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocations. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. This publication reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases, to reject in its sole discretion any advertisement on account of its text. An advertiser's print ad may be renewed on the date the corresponding voice greeting box expires or thereafter. This publication assumes no responsibility for the content or reply to any Southern Voice ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message, and for all claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold this publication, its employees and its agents harmless from all costs, expenses, (including reasonable attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Southern Voice, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name, or address in his/her voice greeting. Not all boxes contain voice greetings.

classifieds

Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

Occasions

Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge in its classifieds section. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone.

birthdays

"Happy birthday to my favorite Sagittarius, Juliet De La Cruz, on Dec. 5. XO, Christie."

Happy birthday to astrologer Charlene Lichtenstein on Nov. 30.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its member Richard J. Betts (Bass) on Nov. 30.

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together / Atlanta member John W. on Nov. 30.0.

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

Our Common Welfare will provide Free HIV testing & counseling. Testing using oral fluids & urine tests; daily from 9am-7pm earlier by appt. & Saturday 9am-1pm. Offices are located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H, Decatur, [next to Dekalb Co. jail]. Call for details: 404-296-3090.

NAESM

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES - 2001 MLK Jr. Dr., Suite 602, Atlanta, GA. 30310
*Free HIV Counseling & Testing - Test uses NO NEEDLES, is quick, easy & confidential. Testing hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00a.m.-5:30p.m.,(other days & hours by appointment). Call 404-753-3550. No appt. necessary. All are welcomed.
*Speaking In The Black - Discussion Group for Gay Men of Color who are HIV+ or have AIDS. Open forum discusses challenges of living with HIV/AIDS. Peer led, safe & confidential. Meets: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more info: 404-753-3550.
*Volunteer Services - Volunteer with NAESM. For more info: Call 404-753-2900.

Someone Cares Inc. of Atlanta is in need of funding. We are a 501(C) 3 nonprofit AIDS Organization. Make Checks Payable to Someone Cares. Mail to: 1031 Cumberland Glen Lane, Smyrna, Ga., 30080. For more info, contact us at 770-612-9430. FREE Testing/Counseling.

FREE HIV TESTING - Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm @ YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. in Decatur. 404-378-6620 for more information, or www.youthpride.org

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625 or call Susan at 770-395-2546.

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 Dekalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

Announcements

St. Michael the Defender

A Parish of the Catholic Apostolic Church in North America. Sunday Mass 10:00am at 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. Across from the Civic Center, free parking! Father Patrick W. Batuyong, Pastor.
www.stmichaelatlanta.orgl
"ALL ARE WELCOME"
404-627-7212.

A COMMON BOND is a social group for gay, former &/or current JW's, offering friendship and an understanding environment. For details about the next gathering of the Atlanta Chapter - 770-493-3188 or e-mail: micek38@yahoo.com

Council President Cathy Woolard announces her 2002 Christmas Campaign for the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home. Details at cathyatlanta.com or 404-330-6035.

WRITER LOOKiNG FOR STORIES of local heroes/people who have made a difference to another individual, their city or their community. Contact Paul Dunn; 3030 McKinney Ave.; Dallas, TX, 75204 or contact me via email: PD200@aol.com

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit - offers free legal services to low-income persons living with life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer and ALS; with a wide range of legal problems - employment discrimination, public benefits, debt relief, insurance, access to health care, housing, family issues, and simple wills and advance directives. Income guidelines do apply. We DO NOT offer legal services for criminal matters. Please call 404-614-3969 for more information.

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

MEDITATION

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FREE: Call for guidelines
__ HIV Services & Education
__ Volunteers

INDIVIDUAL RATE $7:
__ Announcements
__ Auditions
__ Employment–Seeking
__ Pets–Free or Lost & Found
__ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
__ Autos
__ Business
__ Employment–Full Time
__ Employment–Part Time
__ Finance
__ Health
__ Legal
__ Massage Therapy
__ Merchandise
__ Pets–For Sale, Training
__ Publications
__ Real Estate–For Rent
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__ Travel

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2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY:_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant Headline ($5/week)–Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

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Up to 20 words for $7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: 7.00
Additional words ____ x 50¢: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

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Up to 20 words for $15.00 per week. Additional words at $1.00 each per week.

Up to 20 words: 15.00
Additional words ____ x $1.00: _____
Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)
Subtotal: _____ x ____ # of issues
Total: $_____

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Address: _____
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Real Estate For Rent-House

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MIDTOWN - 1176 Holly St. - Remodeled, Charming Brick Bungalow, 2BR/1BA, CHA, Hardwoods, W/D, Fenced Backyard, Wonderful Lawn & Flowers, Sunny Deck, Small Doggie Door. Ralph Lauren Colors. $1200/mo. 404-367-8163.

North Buckhead - great for roommates, 1/2-acre wooded lot, 3BR/2BA, hardwoods, all appliances, alarm, garage. $1495/mo. + deposit. Alan 404-285-8407.

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Roommates

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MIDTOWN - Professional GWM seeks to share, (& not the bed), 2BR/2BA Condo, Great View! $700/mo. + Utilities. Employed, Neat, References Required. Serious Only. 678-595-2615.

CUMBERLAND - GWM Seeks Male to Share 2BR/2.5BA Townhouse. $500/mo. Includes Utilities. 678-525-2593. Avail. Jan 1.

DECATUR/AVONDALE - GF seeks to Share 3BR/1.5BA House in Quiet Neighborhood. NS/ND/No Pets. Must Like Cats. $400/mo. + 1/2 Util's. $200 Deposit. 404-641-8747.

EAST ATLANTA - GWM to Share New 3BR/3.5BA Townhouse with Non-Smoker. No Pets. $595/mo. + Utilities. Call 678-984-8056.

Rooms For Rent

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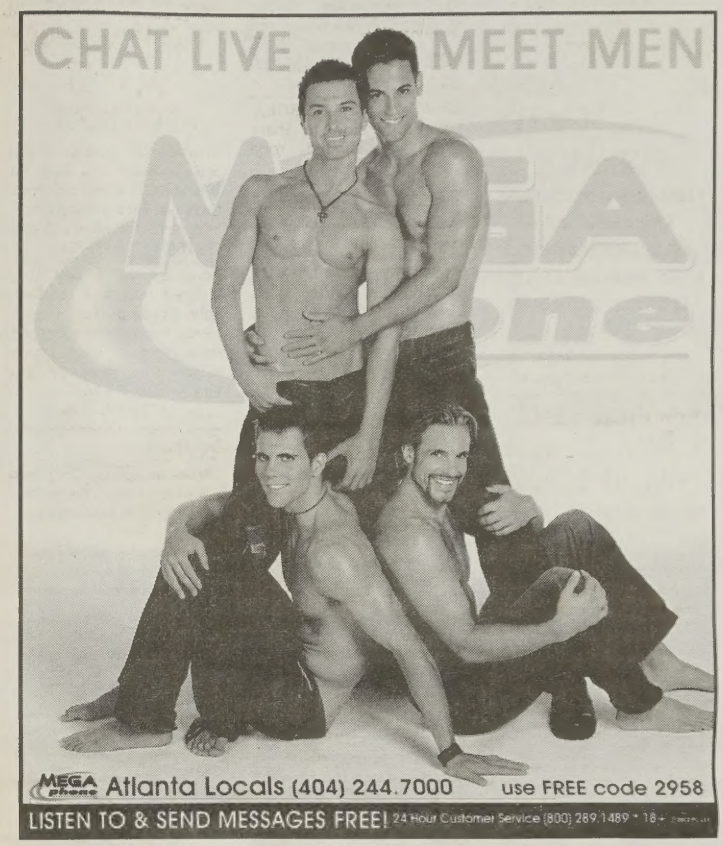
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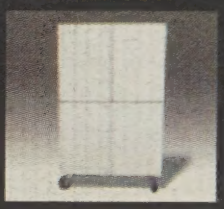

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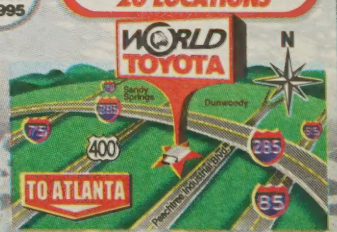
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